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COMPLETE

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Q1

Name

Naketa Ross

Q2

What race are you running in? (LD? House? Senate?)

AZ House LD11

Q3

Email

info@naketaross.com

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

Phone Number

Q5

Children who have year-round health Insurance do better in school, are more likely to graduate from high school, are healthier, and earn more in adulthood. There are approximately 161,000 uninsured children in Arizona. If elected, how would you help ensure that all children and families have access to the health care that they need?

One specific policy we can enact is to strengthen the ability of our foster youth to remain enrolled in Medicaid until the age of 26. As a former foster youth myself, I am all too familiar with the many ways our current foster system fails to prepare us for adulthood and then removes the necessary support the moment we turn 18. In addition to ensuring Medicaid until the age of 26, we need to change our foster youth supports to opt out rather than opt in, as these young adults should not be forced to jump through any more hoops. I also support expanding AHCCCS coverage to a full 12 months postpartum to give mothers the necessary access to health care they need after giving birth. We also should increase income eligibility for KidsCare, as the current threshold leaves thousands of Arizona children without coverage.

Q6

We know that a child's earliest years, birth to age 8, are the most important for the development of their brains. High-quality early childhood experiences can enhance that development. How can the state take a role in helping parents give their children the best start in life?

We should ensure adequate funding and awareness of existing research based programs such as Thrive for Five. We need to expand state funded pre-k to ensure that all children have access to early education. We also should work with Arizona pediatricians to provide basic early childhood development assessments at every well visit. This is the standard in other states. This simple step can help parents be the best advocate for their child and increase awareness of how to best support their early development.

Q7

Many families in Arizona are struggling. Housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable, nearly one in four children live in poverty, and resources that used to be available to help families are no longer there. Research shows that when access to safety net resources are low, foster care populations are high. What is your plan to help children and families get the resources and services they need to keep them out of the child welfare system?

Families are better together. We need to change laws that negatively impact youth and remove the barriers keeping families and communities from accessing the resources they need. One of my first policy proposals will be ending the practice of charging children as adults. I will also fight to decriminalize substance abuse and other non-violent offenses so families have the opportunity to heal, grow stronger, and more resilient. I also know we need to revise our zoning laws so that our communities are economically diverse. This ensures low income families have the same access to safe neighborhoods, clean air and water, and good schools as the wealthy.

Q8

Arizona has been among the bottom states in per pupil K-12 funding for the past decade which has resulted in severe challenges including teacher shortages, crowded classrooms, and insufficient student support services. How will you ensure that students in every neighborhood have access to quality, well-funded education in Arizona

Arizonans let their desire to fund public education be known with every single ballot initiative, yet the legislative body continues to ignore their constituency. I will fight to fully fund public education to the national average, but it is essential we elect more pro-public education candidates to the Arizona legislature to get this done. I will continue my work in building coalitions, protecting the right to vote, and minimizing money in politics to ensure politicians can be held accountable.

Q9

Arizona's elected leaders have created a tax code that is upside down and regressive— meaning that those with low incomes pay a much higher share of their income in taxes compared to Arizona's highest income earners. If elected, what will you do to make sure that wealthy and corporations pay their share of taxes?

Our tax code is regressive because we rely on sales tax revenue while letting the wealthy and corporations exploit tax loopholes. Revising our tax structure to eliminate these loopholes is an important first step.

Q10

As the cost of living is rising faster than wages in Arizona, many households are struggling to afford basic needs. If elected, what are three ways that you will improve economic well-being for Arizonans?

I support expanding child care assistance for working parents, access to health care as outlined above, and ensuring workers are paid a living wage.
