

#49

COMPLETE

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Page 1

**Q1**

Name

Kat Stratford

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**Q2**

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

State House LD18

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**Q3**

Email

katstratfordaz@gmail.com

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**Q4**

Respondent skipped this question

Phone Number

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**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?

I want to expand access to the Arizona Health Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) by making sure families are not required to be desperately impoverished to qualify. I also hope to work toward expanding these programs to include vision and dental. Dental issues can HEAVILY affect physical and mental health, and far too many families have no access to that care.

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**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?

Universal pre-k is something that is long overdue. This would help young children get a great head start in school, and also provides vitally needed childcare for working families. We also need strong after school programs and a return to all-day kindergarten.

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**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?

Currently land lords have no cap on how much they can raise rent for their tenants. We need laws that protect tenants rights to affordable housing. We also need to invest in low-income housing to ensure impoverished families are able to keep a roof over their heads AND feed their families.

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**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

Voters passed Prop 208 in 2020 to help fund public education, and this was recently gutted by the State Legislature and Governor. Simply put: we need to invest heavily in public education, and pass legislation that does what Prop 208 was designed to do.

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**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?

I hope to pass legislation to tax Arizona's wealthiest residents at a higher rate and invest those funds in public education and expanding safety net resources.

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**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?

We need to raise the minimum wage in Arizona to \$15 an hour. It's long overdue. We also need to expand investment in public education and healthcare access so that all Arizonans have access to quality education, healthcare, and the peace of mind that these resources bring.

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