

#49

COMPLETE

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Q1

Name

Cathy Ransom

Q2

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

House LD 1

Q3

Email

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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?

Expanding Kids Care seems like it could be a good option. But it would depend in part on why these kids are uninsured. If whole families are uninsured, allowing them to buy into AHCCCS might make more sense.

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?

State and Federal funds for childcare need to be used to incentivize new providers. We have a childcare desert throughout the rural parts of the state. We need to find ways to support centers in rural areas so families can afford care and providers can make a living wage. Providers need to be encouraged to continue their education so the children have an enriched experience.

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?

Creative public/private partnerships to provide housing need to be created all over the state. I learned recently that the City of Cottonwood is renting a motel in town for housing of families who can't find homes. This kind of creative thinking is needed to keep kids with their families and out of foster care. Schools can also be bridges to services and food but we need to fund that better rather than relying on teachers and neighbors to provide for needy children. The state could also pursue child support cases more aggressively since many of the children in poverty are in single-parent homes. DES needs an overhaul to make it easier for families to apply for assistance. The computer system and staffing levels need to be brought up to a standard worthy of a state which boasts a \$5B surplus...rather than giving the surplus back to wealthy citizens.

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

We need to increase per pupil funding by a minimum of 20% right away. Then increase teacher and para-professional pay by 5% annually until we are at least in the middle of the per-pupil funding list. Class sizes need to come down and school counselors need to be added. Our future depends on it.

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 would vote for tax increases on our wealthiest Arizonans and decreased taxes on our working poor and possibly middle class. The wealthy receive the most benefit from tax dollars and should pay their fair share. Corporations need to stop getting a free ride because they use services like roads and bridges. Their employees want their children to have good schools so they need to support them.

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?

Consider a cap on rent increases. Allow cities and towns to regulate Short term rentals. Provide incentives for developers to build more low-income housing.
