

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 04, 2022 7:14:37 AM
Last Modified: Friday, June 17, 2022 1:13:56 PM
Time Spent: Over a month
IP Address: 165.225.243.31

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Q1

Name

Akanni Oyegbola

Q2

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

LD21

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?

Approaches to improve enrollment should include a combination of ways to enroll, retain, and renew coverage, including expanded outreach to families with children, such as enhanced use of culturally competent navigators, community health workers, and parent mentors; enrollment at key moments and places such as at birth and during enrollment in WIC, Head Start, early childhood, and education programs; simplified paperwork and elimination of bureaucratic barriers; and allowance of presumptive and express lane eligibility and a streamlined renewal of coverage. Covering all children will require a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy aimed at closing the gaps in the children's health insurance system. Continuous coverage, parent mentors, community health centers, increased affordability and other approaches must be applied together to address the crisis of uninsured children.

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?

Every child must be empowered from an early age to make their own decisions in order to become powerful participants in their societies and build healthier and more prosperous futures. Early childhood is considered as the most critical period in a child's life, as it is the period during which the child's brain begins to grow and develop. In order to ensure healthy development for children, they need to build neural connections in the brain. These connections are created through good parenting practices such as hugging, comforting, playing, reading, singing and talking. Parents should prevent their children from maltreatment, abuse and neglect. It is critical that every child has access to quality early childhood care, learning and development programmes and other early learning opportunities involving toys, books and interactive engagement with adults and peers.

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?

Common Sense Parenting: An evidence-based group parenting program for parents of children ages birth to 18 that emphasizes positive parent-child interactions and positive reinforcement. Direct Support Services: A program for families with a child (ages birth to 18) who has a behavioral health diagnosis. Provided in the family's home, at school or at another community location, services include family support, parenting skills training, behavior coaching and social skills training. Foster Care and Adoption Studies: Assists families seeking to provide homes for children who have been removed from their parents due to abuse or neglect. Services include training, foster care licensing, adoption certification, and placement supervision and support. Private adoption home studies are also available. Healthy Families: An evidence-based home visitation program that supports pregnant women and families with newborns to promote child health and development, enhance parent-child relationships, improve school readiness and increase family self-sufficiency. New Beginnings Program: A nationally-recognized parenting program for separating and divorcing parents in which research demonstrates that parental participation in the program results in improved children's long-term adjustment following divorce.

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

I support The Invest in Education Act will make sure everyone pays their fair share so that Arizona students have the schools they deserve. This initiative voter protects nearly \$1 billion for public education funding. This permanent and sustainable revenue is used for teacher salary increases, reducing class size, and making sure students have access to nurses, counselors, and other support staff who are critical to student success.

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?

The list of comparable tax loopholes which the rich use routinely to get out of paying taxes is vast . As economic inequality has deepened in the Arizona, millions of dollars in counting have been lost to tax loopholes like tax havens, evading the estate tax through inheritance and other means. I support reforming how this is done state wide for corporation to avoid paying their fair share.

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?

Education incentives in the form of continuing education scholarships to help individuals upskill and receive the credentials they need for a thriving career. establishing a state-level child tax credit, which has been shown to reduce poverty, that will go towards affording the essentials needed to raise a child. Creating a refundable tax credit for career and technical education opportunities, and by permanently expanding child care assistance, we can reduce some of the barriers to work.
