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Q1

Name

Lorenzo Sierra

Q2

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

LD22 House

Q3

Email

lorenzo@losierra.com

Q4

Phone Number

480-242-9673

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?

As a member of the AZ House, I have supported expansion of KidsCare. Because many families are unaware of their eligibility for health insurance benefits, I have also supported investing in navigators that help families determine what they are eligible for. This year in appropriations, I voted to ensure families' coverage lasted an entire year. This helps those families who would fall out of eligibility because they received three pay checks in a calendar month.

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?

I have championed access to high-quality PreK for ALL families. I worked with multiple agencies to get HB2015 (in 2021) through the House. I have also worked to secure funding for PreK grants for providers throughout the state. I have secured tens of thousands of free books for our youngest learners in my district. I will continue to find resources to ensure our youngest scholars reach their full potential.

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?

In appropriations this year I voted for the child tax credit bill. I voted to raise the monthly amount of money for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. I will continue to advocate for policies and appropriations that keep families together.

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

As mentioned earlier, I have supported increased funding in PreK. That has led to schools in my district receiving millions of dollars to provide high-quality programming for families in my district. This past session I introduced a bill to include an opportunity weight into our K-12 funding formula.

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?

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee from 2019 to 2021, I opposed and fought bills meant to weaken the then passed Prop 208. I opposed and spoke against the flat tax scheme that was passed last session. I will continue to fight against unfair tax policy.

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?

In past sessions I have introduced and supported legislation that helps families' economic well-being. In the next session, I again plan to: 1, introduce an opportunity weight bill; 2, introduce a bill aimed at increasing affordable, workforce housing units; and 3, introduce a bill limiting barriers to families accessing the health insurance benefits which they are entitled to.
