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Q1

Name

Raquel Terán

Q2

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

State Senate, LD26

Q3

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Q4

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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?

Access to quality healthcare for all is one of my top campaign priorities. Our families in Arizona deserve access to universal quality healthcare. Healthcare should be comprehensive, including reproductive health and abortion. I will fight for universal healthcare coverage for all, excluding no one, and embrace investing in our families' health. I firmly believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege for the few. I will fight passionately to remove all barriers, whether financial or legal, to ensure that our families have the health coverage they deserve.

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 must invest in quality universal childcare programs, public education, including universal Pre-K and Headstart, and the services schools provide. Public schools are a hub of our communities. Many low-income students rely on the nutritious well-balanced breakfast and lunch offered at public schools. Despite lack of funding and resources, many schools kept their cafeterias open for students in need and provided wifi-access by using school buses as hot spots in parking lots throughout neighborhoods. The pandemic has shown just how vital schools are to working families and children.

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?

My entire progressive, movement, and political career has been focused on creating more equitable systems. Housing and apartment prices are pricing out Arizona families. I support any effort to increase the supply of affordable housing and to remove zoning restrictions that reinforce structural injustices. Additionally, we must evaluate the resources spent on things such as prisons and re-invest these in our community: in housing, in public education, and other social service programs.

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 would support any number of ways to address the long-term funding needs of Arizona's public education system. Seeing as we are in a budget surplus using the extra money on hand would be a fantastic place to start. In the longer term, we must look at every possible solution to address this issue – education is Arizona's future. Continuing to underfund schools means shortchanging the future of our state.

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?

Arizonans deserve a fair tax code. This priority is central to all other items since Arizona's tax code is filled with loopholes and special-interest tax cuts; no one in Arizona believes it's fair to give the most wealthy, cuts on expenses like private airplanes. I support policies to close these loopholes and eliminate special-interest tax breaks for the wealthy. Arizona needs to hire more tax auditors and collectors to make sure everyone is playing by the same rules.

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?

Investment in Safe Neighborhood Public Schools: The children of Arizona deserve safe and quality neighborhood public schools. I will work to ensure teachers have the adequate resources they need to help every child reach their maximum potential. I stand for an expansion of quality early childhood programs to support working families and build a strong foundation for learning. I support funding to modernize school buildings and facilities to build safe and 21st-century learning environments. Residents of Arizona also deserve access to free or close to tuition-free post-secondary technical schools, community colleges, and universities. Arizona needs a trained and educated workforce to attract good companies with good paying jobs and with good benefits. It's time to invest boldly in our families' future.
