

#50

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 5:19:47 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 6:03:35 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:43:48  
**IP Address:** 172.58.27.139

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Name

Stephanie Stahl Hamilton

---

**Q2**

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

LD 21 House

---

**Q3**

Email

stephanie@stahlhamiltonforaz.com

---

**Q4**

Phone

Number

520-261-5629

---

**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 would start with increasing the income index with KidsCare. And I would work towards gaining medicare for all. Our rural parts of the state face challenges in having healthcare providers accessible and I will push for increasing broadband throughout the state in order to provide the option of telehealth as well as clinics and healthcare facilities. Establishing a relationship with a primary healthcare provider can also be a challenge is securing and keeping affordable housing is an issue. If families are in constant transition, it can be hard to establish an ongoing relationship. It is cumbersome to continuously establish a primary care relationship.

---

**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?

There are not enough high quality, affordable early childhood program available to Arizona's children. Our district public schools are woefully underfunded and understaffed. Many parents are not able to afford to send their children to preschool or place them in safe, quality daycare programs. On a very macro level the city of Tempe has been able to work with their schools to implement a comprehensive program for young children. I think we can learn a lot from their program and system and work towards implementing that at the state level. Not only is daycare and preschool important, but access to safe affordable housing is key as well. High wage jobs help families to have more income to provide those high quality early childhood experiences like music lessons, day camps in the summer, and sports teams. Being able to provide a wide variety of supplemental experiences goes a long way in helping develop the pathways in the brain that foster a sense of curiosity and a willingness to try new things. All of this so great for early childhood social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development.

**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 the early 2000's the state swept the funds from Arizona's Housing Trust Fund and it has never brought the level of funding back to where it was, let alone discuss how that fund should grow in order to meet the housing demands in the 2020's. With costs skyrocketing and more and more families facing uncertain housing issues, now is the time to fund the Housing Trust Fund, remove the narrow set of requirements necessary to accessing those funds and work with our cities and towns to find creative ways to help ease the housing crisis. As mentioned earlier, when it comes to our children and families, affordable access to quality healthcare, education, and housing is the foundation for a strong start to a child's life. Enabling adults to move from low wage to high wage employment also increases the likelihood that families will have the resources they need to keep families intact and out of the child welfare system. Most of the social issues that require the state to intervene are the symptoms of poverty. JobPath and Career Pathways are two organizations that have helped parents move from low wage into high wage jobs by providing support on all levels in order for parents to complete a degree and training while also addressing issues of substance use disorder and housing insecurity. Again, we know that these supports create successful outcomes.

**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

Education funding in Arizona is a complicated patchwork of funding formulas that doesn't fully fund our public schools and as a result we do not have fully staffed schools either. Relying on tax credits, bonds and overrides, has set up an inequitable funding system for our state. ESAs and STOs further erode the tax dollars that rightfully belong in public schools. At one point, when Arizona established the equalization formula for school funding, we were on the right track but the moment that our schools rely on performance pay and tax credit donations as well as the bonds and overrides, rural schools and title one neighborhoods lose out on critical funding. If I were solely in charge, I would roll back the tax credit donations, cut ESAs and STOs, stop performance and high stakes testing pay, and grow the general budget in order to raise salaries, repair buildings, purchase textbooks and buses, and upgrade school technology. I would also encourage schools to establish a pay scale that would have annual increases based upon years of service and levels of education.

**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?

Tax cuts and credits would be the first to go with the understanding that it would take at least seven to ten years for many corporations to use up their banked credits. Oversight is necessary to monitor, regularly, the tax credits already assigned and sunset recommendations would be put in place. I also would like to see more community engagement and contributions required of our big corporations if we are not going to collect taxes from them for the general budget.

---

**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?

Workforce development, adult education, affordable quality childcare, affordable housing, and fully funded schools are what I would consider the most important building blocks for economic well-being for Arizonans. I believe that if we are able to keep these things in mind as we promote economic growth in our state, we will be on the right track for a sustainable future. I fear that with rising heat due to climate change and water shortages in our state, many lower economic communities are going to suffer and we won't be able to put in place these things that provide a foundation and safety net for the future of our state. We cannot have a sustainable future if we continue to cater to the most wealthy and those who have the most privilege. We've got incredible resources in our state--there is more than enough for all of us to have a bright future; my concern is that a small minority of privileged elite create laws and policy upholding the ideology of meritocracy. Compassionate, creative, leadership is so necessary for our state and a critical missing piece. We can do better and for the sake of our children must do better.

---