

REPRESENT ME AZ – CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

These are not comprehensive questions and we realize that we are not giving you a great amount of time to think about these issues, so answer as many as you can. We will upload your answers to our website prior to our event. If you feel you are unable to answer the questions properly, leave it blank and take the time you need. We can upload after the kickoff also.

When answering these questions;

- Keep your answers to no more than 150 words for each question.
- Please distinguish between the role of Federal and State Government for issues where they apply.
- Please indicate how programs can be paid for.

GENERAL

1. Why are you running for Congress and what makes you uniquely qualified to represent CD2? I am running for Congress because there are critical issues that must be addressed if we are going to bring out the best in our citizenry and our nation: I plan to fight for universal health care, good jobs, public education (and oppose a national voucher system), a reduction in our global carbon footprint, a fair immigration policy (instead of a boondoggle wall), and a woman's right to choose, while fighting against the obscene influence money has grown to have on our politics (Citizens United). These are issues I have successfully championed serving as a city councilperson and as a leader in the Arizona House of Representatives for many of the same constituents of CD2. I am eager to continue that work.
2. What is your biggest platform issue/what is most important to you? Medicare For All. Jobs Not Jails. Strengthen Public Education. Stop Dark Money. Combat Human Caused Global Warming. Expand Planned Parenthood.

ECONOMY/JOBS

3. What are the most important things that Congress should do to improve the economy? Congress must draw on the lessons of the financial crisis instead of continuing its path of returning to the policies that created it. The following actions should be taken: Regulate Wall St. and financial institutions. Return to a progressive income tax environment in which the wealthy and large corporations pay their fair share. Invest in major infrastructure. Invest in high tech research and development. Develop public / private partnerships to build new industries and create good paying jobs.

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4. What, if anything, should the federal government do about the growing economic disparity between the poor, the middle class, and the wealthy? Our economy is dangerously out of balance, rewarding the richest 0.01% of our population and the largest corporations, some of which pay no income taxes. Congress must enact significant tax reforms in which the wealthy and large corporations pay their fair share, eliminating tens of billions of dollars in tax shelters and loopholes. We should strengthen the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and allow it to perform its responsibilities to act against deception and abuses of large banks, student loan gouging, predatory lending, and unfair credit card policies. We should also invest in public education and make post secondary education affordable.
5. What would you like to see happen with the federal minimum wage? I support the Wage Act of 2017 which would gradually increase the national minimum wage to \$15 by 2024. I have always supported regular increases in the minimum wage, including last year's Proposition 206, which raised the minimum wage to \$10 in 2017 and to \$12 by 2020 in Arizona. We must ensure that future economic growth is shared across the economic spectrum.
6. Do you consider unions to be part of the solution, or part of the problem? What steps should Congress take to strengthen or weaken their role? Unions have historically played positive and critical roles as part of the solution to workers' rights. Congress must reverse present trends that have weakened unions, including so-called Right to Work laws. We must pass laws supporting and strengthening the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), including binding arbitration, union representation and membership elections. Fair wages, hours, working conditions, civil rights protections and training are all essential rights that must be ensured if we are to achieve a fair and just society in which all of us share in the benefits.

FOREIGN POLICY

7. In the realm of foreign policy, what are the issues of greatest concern to you? What should Congress be doing to address them? The security of the United States is our most solemn responsibility. American global leadership must reflect our dedication to human rights and derive its strengths from our values. In order to keep our nation secure and respected, we must reflect our own most basic rights of human freedom, dignity, and opportunity to the rest of the world.
8. How should the U.S. respond to Russian interference in U.S. elections? With effective and common sense actions and protections which will deter any further interference affecting our sovereignty.

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9. Should the U.S. be involved in foreign conflicts, and if so, what criteria are needed to engage? Only when our own direct national security and the lives of our people are truly at risk. Our nation has been lied to too often from Vietnam to Iraq as excuses to go to war. I oppose adventurism and unnecessary wars of convenience.
10. What changes would you like to see in the U.S. approach to terrorism? A sober, clear eyed intelligence analysis to combat the roots of the problem with a cohesive, sharply focused, and unrelenting commitment to defeating the forces of terror whose intent is to kill and harm our people with any legal means of power and influence at our disposal.

ENTITLEMENTS

11. Do you favor increasing, decreasing, or leaving unchanged Social Security and Medicare benefits? How should Congress ensure that these programs are financially viable going forward? I was the first Democrat on the floor of the Arizona House of Representatives last year to call for “Medicare For All.” I would strengthen both Medicare and Social Security. These are effective programs that work for millions of Americans who depend on them for health, safety, and security.

HEALTH CARE & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

12. Do you believe the federal government should ensure that all Americans have health insurance coverage? Describe the health care system most likely to be successful in the U.S. (please be specific with regard to single payer, universal, etc.) and how does it get funded? Yes. Again, I am a strong advocate for Medicare For All. We all know someone in our family who relies on Medicare. It works. It’s efficient. And it already covers the most expensive age group of our population: Those over 65. It only makes sense, morally and economically, to expand it to cover everyone. It would be paid for by a payroll deduction, similar to its current model, which will be less expensive than all the insurance coverage fees, deductibles and add-ons we currently pay in this most expensive of all global health care systems.
13. According to the Guttmacher Institute, the unintended pregnancy rate in the U.S. was 45% in 2011, and approximately two thirds of unplanned births are paid for by public insurance programs, primarily Medicaid. What role should the federal government play in reducing the rate of unintended pregnancy? Reducing the unintended pregnancy rate should be a national public health goal. Congress must protect and ensure federal contraceptive coverage rights and publicly funded family funded planning services. Planned Parenthood must be not only protected, but expanded.

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14. In cases of unintended pregnancy, what role should the federal government play regarding the choices available to women? The role of guaranteeing a woman's health choices, including protecting her own reproductive rights. A woman's right to decide, free from government intrusion, is a right. What she and her family decide are in her and her family's interest and moral beliefs must be respected and protected.

EQUAL RIGHTS

15. Specifically, what should Congress do to better protect Americans from workplace discrimination? Laws that protect various types of discrimination have gradually been passed over the past several years, but those protective laws are increasingly coming under attack by attempted revisions from radical social conservatives. In the Arizona legislature I have voted against bills that would statutorily legalize discrimination against our LGBT family through the guise of so-called religious freedom. I will continue to advocate for, and if elected, vote for laws that prohibit any form of workplace discrimination.
16. What, if any, protections do you believe are missing for LGBTQ people? The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled last month that long-standing federal civil rights laws prohibit discrimination on the job against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender employees. It was the first of its kind ruling from a federal appeals court. Congress must strengthen existing laws to protect all working people, including LGBT employees, from discrimination of any type.
17. What more should Congress be doing to end hunger in America, and to ensure the safety of our food and water? While in college I worked with, and served as a delegate to, the Freedom From Hunger Foundation. I believe Congress ought to make the elimination of hunger a priority in our national budget and build on areas of proven success by strengthening and investing in successful national nutrition programs. We must protect and strengthen our ability to ensure our water and food are safe through the efficiencies of the EPA and the Food and Drug Administration.

EDUCATION

18. What responsibility does the federal government have to ensure that students are safe from bullying and/or discrimination in public schools, including charter schools? Although no federal law directly addresses bullying, in too many cases, bullying overlaps with discriminatory harassment when it is based on race, gender, color, disability, or sexual orientation. When these overlaps occur, federally funded schools have an obligation to halt the bullying. I support a harassment-free environment in which students can learn without fear of bullying. I will support federal legislation to ensure this right. Charter schools must abide by the same regulations as public district schools.

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19. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, only about a third of U.S. high school seniors are ready for college-level coursework. What do you see as the cause(s) of the problem, and what are some possible remedies? The ideological effort to privatize public education is a disaster about to happen, if not stopped. As a state legislator, I have fought every year, sometimes successfully, to prevent the further erosion of support for public education at all levels. By taking public funds away from public education and issuing vouchers for private schools, we are degrading the necessary support to adequately fund our schools and prepare our students with a strong education that will prepare them for higher education and the work place. Smaller class rooms and greater emphasis on STEM programs are vital in addition to equalizing educational opportunities.
20. What would be the most effective way for Congress to help make college more affordable? The heavy burden of student debt is a crisis which threatens the ability of young people to complete their higher education and begin working on a secure financial footing. Student debt has eclipsed credit card debt and is second only to home mortgages. Congress must act to extend lower public and private loan rates and allow students to refinance their federal loans at the lower rates. My efforts would also provide students an avenue that will allow them to pay off their private loans and instead take out lower rate public loans.

PUBLIC SAFETY

21. What reforms should be implemented in law enforcement? Adequate personnel, proper training, community policing, and support and accountability are necessary for effective law enforcement officers and officials. I believe steps such as these would be welcomed not only by our law enforcement community but citizens who expect and deserve a professional force adequately prepared to provide the security we must enjoy.
22. What reforms are needed in the criminal justice system? The US has the largest prison population in the world both in raw numbers and as a percentage of our population. This travesty is unacceptable. We are building the largest Gulag prison population in history. Laws governing the incarceration for non-violent offenders must be revised. Judges and the courts must be returned their right to weigh the evidence without strict, nonsensical, statutorily mandated minimum sentencing requirements.
23. Who should not be allowed to possess firearms? Do you support universal background checks and if so, how should they be implemented? Persons deemed to be legally violently harmful to themselves or others, and the severely mentally ill,

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should not be allowed to possess firearms. I do support universal background checks through the passage of federal law, as even the NRA proposed several years ago.

24. What steps should Congress take to address sexual violence? I support the recent creation of a bipartisan congressional task force aimed at developing legislative proposals, initiatives, and laws to address sexual violence in a host of areas, including on college campuses. Sexual violence can never be condoned in a free society.

IMMIGRATION

25. What criteria should we use to determine which people should be allowed to immigrate to the U.S.? Immigration into the US should be based upon the following principles: The reunification of families, admitting immigrants with skills that are valuable to the US economy and in short supply, protecting refugees, and promoting diversity. Border security is of paramount importance to our society. Undocumented children brought in by their parents should also be permitted to apply and remain as legal immigrants with a pathway to citizenship. Foreign nationals who served in our armed services, I believe, ought to be given the opportunity to immigrate.
26. What criteria should be used to decide which people are deported? People who commit crimes, particularly violent crimes, should not be permitted to remain in our country.
27. Do you support a citizenship pathway? Yes, if they meet certain criteria such as employment, paying taxes, and are in good standing.

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY

28. How should Congress address the threat that climate change poses to U.S. agriculture, coastal property, public health, and national security? Global warming due to human carbon emissions poses a clear and major crisis for our planet if we do not, first of all, acknowledge it as a science based fact, and secondly, act boldly and immediately to halt it. We must return to the Paris Climate Agreement enacted by 195 nations and meet its goals of significantly reducing our carbon footprint within the next decade.
29. What changes, if any, should be made to the tax code to encourage the growth of renewable energy sources? Major tax reform includes not only making giant carbon producing corporations like Chevron Texaco pay taxes, but must also contain provisions and incentives to develop, on a significantly greater level, newer, highly

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efficient, and sustainable energy production methods. Renewable energy production must be mandated on a realistic and fast track time table.

30. What is your view of the U. S. pulling out of the Paris climate agreement? Pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement is a travesty and very dangerous to the present and future generations on this planet we all share. Pulling out will actually take four years to implement, so it is vital to not re-elect President Trump in 2020, and to have a Congress in place to implement the agreement.

VOTING/ELECTIONS

31. What specific steps should Congress take to address political corruption? We must begin by getting rid of Citizens United. I also believe we ought to have publicly financed elections at the federal level just as we enjoy through citizen passed initiatives in Arizona and the city of Tucson.
32. What should be done to ensure that every citizen has the ability to vote? As a member of the Arizona House of Representatives, I consistently spoke out against and voted against every effort to disenfranchise our voters. There exists a national ideological effort to make voting more difficult. This is a travesty that must be remedied with adequate laws and within the courts. We must make voting easier, and ensure every citizen's right to vote, our most basic of all democratic rights.

VETERANS

33. What reforms are needed in the VA system? Included among the reforms needed are: Speeding medical care for all veterans, reducing disability claims backlogs, expanding community care options, improving the VA's IT systems, and simplifying the disability claims appeals process. This ought to be a non-partisan issue and one more way to honor our veterans and the sacrifices they have paid on our behalf.
34. What do you see is needed to combat the nearly 20 Veteran suicides a day? Suicide prevention programs and policies must recognize and affirm the value, dignity, and importance of each veteran. Adequate funding towards suicide prevention programs, and better data collection targeting a series of mental health conditions including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, and alcoholism must be supported and enacted by Congress.