

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 thought I was done with politics after running for U.S. Senate last year. Roger and I moved to Tucson to be closer to our children and grandchildren. In fact, for the first few months of 2017, we were in and out of the hospital after complications with the birth of our grandson. Thankfully he is happy and healthy now, but it underscored the the significance of the Affordable Care Act and ensuring that Arizonans have access to affordable health care and that we must fight for paid family leave.

Then Martha McSally was a deciding vote in passing a House bill that would repeal the ACA and throw more than 400,000 Arizonans off their health coverage. She played a big role in getting that bill across the finish line and encouraging her colleges to 'get this ****ing done'. That was it. I couldn't sit on the sidelines anymore.

We have to take back the House to put a check on Trump's agenda. And we can't do that without winning CD2. So here I am, back in the saddle, ready to serve my community and get things done in Washington..

2. What is your biggest platform issue/what is most important to you?

My proudest vote in Congress was for the Affordable Care Act. It wasn't an easy vote and there were Democrats in similarly tough districts to mine who refused to vote yes, but it was the right thing to do.

I have been dismayed watching the Republicans undo the progress we made and put millions of Americans at risk of losing their health coverage. There's no question we

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can and must improve our health care laws to lower costs, but my top priority in Congress was and will be protecting the Affordable Care Act and ensuring we take the next steps to ensure that no American must make life and death decisions about their health care over money.

ECONOMY/JOB

3. What are the most important things that Congress should do to improve the economy?

I am committed to reviving Arizona's middle class by creating good-paying local jobs. And in order to do that, I want to jumpstart the economy by supporting small businesses; keeping Arizona jobs in Arizona; fostering innovation; and making smart investments in education, infrastructure and job training.

I know the importance of international trade to our economy, but I oppose so-called "free trade" deals that outsource jobs and harm workers. Success demands an educated, evolving workforce, so we should expand job training and technical education programs to help workers train for job that pay well.

I played a leading role in advancing key infrastructure projects across Arizona: the proposed Interstate 11 through Pinal and Pima counties, flood control projects in rural Arizona, and road improvements on the Navajo Nation. I pushed for high-speed Internet in all corners of Arizona, which would boost local economies and prepare our students for better jobs.

4. What, if anything, should the federal government do about the growing economic disparity between the poor, the middle class, and the wealthy?

Our financial system is rigged against working families – too many are working harder and harder for less. As a former prosecutor, I am horrified that to this day no one on Wall Street has gone to jail for causing the economic collapse. We're 8 years later, and Wall Street has not been held accountable. We need more financial cops on the Wall Street beat who have the teeth to enforce these laws. We need to end the revolving door between Wall Street and their regulators. And it's time for serious jail time for anyone who perpetrated a fraud on the American public.

We must also reform our tax code so that the burden of taxation doesn't increasingly fall on the middle class as it has for the past forty years. The Republican proposal would cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans and that's just wrong.

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5. What would you like to see happen with the federal minimum wage?

I strongly support an increase in the federal minimum wage and, crucially, tying the minimum wage to inflation. Arizona overwhelmingly passed Prop 206 last year, [a measure I was proud to campaign for](#), it's time we do so at the Federal level.

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?

I have always been a strong voice for labor in Congress. Unions are often the only voice at the table fighting against corporate greed and for working families. In the era of the Trump administration, we particularly must protect public employees unions who can often be undermined and weakened by administrative action.

I am proud to have already been endorsed in this campaign by UFCW, the Carpenters and SMART. Jim McLaughlin, Local 99 President said: "Ann Kirkpatrick has a proven record of standing up in Congress for working families. Whether you're talking about her support for the DREAM Act, for fair treatment in the workplace, or for good affordable health care, Ann has the courage to do the right thing even when it isn't the easy thing. We're behind her 100%."

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?

One of the greatest concerns the U.S. must be focused on is the proliferation of nuclear weapons. I strongly supported President Obama's Iran Deal, which helped prevent Iran from advancing its nuclear weapon program, and required the Iranian government to remove 13,000 centrifuges, eliminate 98% of its uranium, destroy the core of its plutonium reactor and allow nuclear inspectors into its sites. Congress should continue to support international treaties and agreements to both stop the spread and ultimately reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world.

8. How should the U.S. respond to Russian interference in U.S. elections?

First, we need to know what happened. The Mueller investigation needs to be given all the resources possible to investigate and tell the American people what happened, who was involved and to what extent Russian actions influenced the election.

The next step should be preventing this from ever happening again. That means Congress needs to act to improve the transparency and reporting of political ads, especially online ads that are largely unregulated and unreported.

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Finally, the U.S. should seriously consider economic sanctions against Russia in retaliation to their interference in our elections. We must make it clear to Putin and other international actors that our elections are sacred and we will not tolerate any interference. There is also a role for the international community in setting guidelines for stopping international election interference.

9. Should the U.S. be involved in foreign conflicts, and if so, what criteria are needed to engage?

I do not believe the U.S. should be engaged in foreign conflicts unless we are directly attacked. My bar for putting U.S. boots on the ground is extremely high. I believe we should withdraw entirely from Iraq and Afghanistan and leave security to local forces.

10. What changes would you like to see in the U.S. approach to terrorism?

The next front of global terrorism is online. We must continue to make improvements in our nation's cyber defense, not just in military and government systems but also in the computer networks that run our financial markets, businesses and hospitals. Digital terrorist attacks will be almost impossible to stop without a proactive approach and will hurt those who can't defend themselves first.

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 believe in the promise this nation has made to our seniors – that a lifetime of hard work will lead to economic security and access to health care in retirement.

As our economy continues its long recovery after the Great Recession, more seniors than ever are counting on Social Security and Medicare. And after years of hard work, they have earned the peace of mind these programs provide.

I have fought to protect Arizona's families from attempts to privatize Social Security or turn Medicare into a voucher system. I opposed the Ryan Budget and criticized its harmful priorities. I also joined my colleagues in the successful fight to defeat the "chained CPI" proposal, which would have cut Social Security benefits, hurting seniors, veterans and working families.

I will never go back on the promise of Social Security and Medicare and I will fight to protect these programs against privatization or efforts to end the Medicare guarantee.

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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?

I support universal health care – affordable health care for every American. Everyone needs to have health insurance—because without insurance, you are in real trouble if disaster strikes.

Medicare works great for our seniors. There’s a lot of talk about expanding Medicare and I think we should expand it—to do that we need to figure out exactly how to pay for it. I like the idea of letting people buy into Medicare, giving people the choice to purchase insurance through Medicare.

I’m listening to all the ideas out there, but my starting point is that everyone in our country needs health insurance they can afford and we must work to lower costs for hardworking Americans.

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?

Education is key. The data is clear, that teaching kids about safe sex and access contraception greatly reduces the rate of unintended pregnancy. Too often Republican politicians try to tie federal funding for education to abstinence-only programs, which we know don’t work.

14. In cases of unintended pregnancy, what role should the federal government play regarding the choices available to women?

I believe in a women’s right to choose and the federal government should ensure that all women, regardless of their economic status, have access to the services and information they need. I have fought my entire Congressional career against efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and will continue to do so if elected. Martha McSally voted earlier this week to ban abortions after 20 weeks.

EQUAL RIGHTS

15. Specifically, what should Congress do to better protect Americans from workplace discrimination?

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I was proud to be an original co-sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act protecting Americans from being fired based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. We must pass this legislation. I also supported the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which protects women from being paid less than men for performing the same work.

16. What, if any, protections do you believe are missing for LGBTQ people?

Paid family leave is an issue that effects all Americans but even in some states and companies that offer paid family leave, LGBTQ Americans aren't offered the same level of leave and rights as their straight colleagues. I believe we should offer the widest possible coverage to all Americans as they deal with births, deaths and family illnesses. I also support equal adoption rights for LGBTQ families.

17. What more should Congress be doing to end hunger in America, and to ensure the safety of our food and water?

We must protect funding for SNAP, school lunch and senior meal program. Too often these programs are first on the Republican chopping block but we've seen these program protect those most in danger of being food insecure from falling into hunger. I am particularly worried about the future of these programs in the Trump 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?

The Department of Education should continue to invest in anti-bullying programs and help schools share best practices. This includes research and data collection on school bullying – we can't address the problem without access to good, comprehensive data on the issue. I also believe the federal government should play an oversight role in investigating school districts with abnormally high incidents of bullying and work with states and municipalities to curb bullying.

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?

Today, Arizona's children are competing for jobs with the entire world – so they need a world-class education to prepare them for the 21st century economy.

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As a mother who sent her children to Arizona’s public schools, I know we must do more to recruit, train and retain high-quality teachers in our state – particularly in rural communities. And, just as important, we must put our teachers and students in a position to succeed by properly funding classrooms, training programs and other essential needs.

We must invest in education, not just in terms of dollars and cents but also in the quality of teachers we recruit by offering tuition reimbursement for those willing to teach where they are needed and higher pay to compete with private sector jobs.

20. What would be the most effective way for Congress to help make college more affordable?

Congress needs to go forwards, not backwards. I have fought against repeated attempts to cut Pell Grants, which play an important role in making the dream of a college degree a reality for thousands of Arizonans.

Next, I believe Congress needs to expand access to an affordable higher education for all Americans. That is why I co-sponsored the America's College Promise Act that would make the first two years of community college free.

I also believe we should lower interest rates for student loans. If big banks can borrow money at rates next to zero, so too should our students.

PUBLIC SAFETY

21. What reforms should be implemented in law enforcement?

As a former prosecutor, I have worked closely with law enforcement and have tremendous respect for those who put their lives on the line to protect us every day. I believe we should be implementing universal systems such as body cameras to ensure law enforcement remains accountable to the people they serve.

I also believe the federal government has an important role to play in investigating and prosecuting police shootings. Police departments and the prosecutors they work with should not be put in the position to investigate themselves. Bringing in federal prosecutors or special counsel to investigate these incidents will ensure more accountability and trust in our justice system.

22. What reforms are needed in the criminal justice system?

We must invest more in public defenders’ offices throughout the country. Everyone deserves a competent defense and too often, especially in low-income jurisdictions, over-worked and under-staffed public defenders are not able to provide the legal representation everyone deserves.

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I also believe we should invest more in drug rehabilitation and prevention programs to help those struggling with drug addiction stay out of prison. Finally, I believe we should end the use of for-profit prisons. We've built a system that makes money from our children going to prison. That's unacceptable.

23. Who should not be allowed to possess firearms? Do you support universal background checks and if so, how should they be implemented?

Criminals and the severely mentally ill should not be able to purchase or possess a firearm. I co-sponsored legislation to prevent stalkers and domestic abusers from purchasing or possessing firearms, and I supported legislation to prevent those on the terrorist watch list from buying guns and explosives, a bill Rep. McSally bafflingly opposed. I cannot see why someone who is not allowed to fly on an airplane should be allowed to buy an AR-15.

I strongly support universal background checks and have long supported legislation to implement those checks. I am proud to be endorsed by two of the national leaders on gun violence prevention, Gabby Giffords and Mark Kelly.

24. What steps should Congress take to address sexual violence?

I fought hard to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and to include provisions to protect Native American women. The reauthorization included provisions that allow tribal courts to prosecute non-Indians who commit violence against women and families on Indian lands. We must continue to strengthen assault statutes, protect whistleblowers and offer victims the resources they need to seek justice.

IMMIGRATION

25. What criteria should we use to determine which people should be allowed to immigrate to the U.S.?

Those with a clean criminal record and the financial means to support themselves and their family, as currently required by law, should be welcomed to our country.

26. What criteria should be used to decide which people are deported?

I believe people convicted of a crime and those who law enforcement deem a threat to our safety should be deported. I do not believe that those jurisdictions using minor offenses (speeding tickets, late payment of fines) to initiate immigration proceedings should be allowed to do so. Often these deportations rip hardworking immigrants away from their families and their jobs.

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27. Do you support a citizenship pathway?

Yes.

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?

I support a national energy plan that allows us to create more energy, use it more efficiently, improve conservation, and reduce carbon emissions. I want a national plan to invest in renewable energy and create new jobs. And I know just where we can get the money to pay for it--we can stop subsidizing big oil, which is a fantastically profitable business enterprise that does not require help from taxpayers.

29. What changes, if any, should be made to the tax code to encourage the growth of renewable energy sources?

Stop subsidizing big oil and offer tax credits to those companies investing in renewable energy.

30. What is your view of the U. S. pulling out of the Paris climate agreement?

I strongly oppose the U.S. pulling out of the Paris climate agreement. We must do more to protect our planet and environment for future generations.

VOTING/ELECTIONS

31. What specific steps should Congress take to address political corruption?

Republicans and outside groups have spent \$40 million against me over my career. The proliferation of money in politics, particularly following the Citizen United decisions has had a corrupting influence on all aspects of American politics.

That's why I support both the DISCLOSE Act, which would require reporting of all dark money spent in elections, and the Government By The People Act, which would incentivize political campaigns to be funded by grassroots donors, not corporate PACs.

I am also proud that nearly 100,000 donors have given to my campaigns. I am committed to fighting the millions of dollars in dark money the Republicans will throw at me with the power of people.

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32. What should be done to ensure that every citizen has the ability to vote?

I believe we should pass automatic voter registration to ensure that everyone over the age of 18 can choose to vote without any hurdles. I also strongly oppose Republican efforts to pass voter ID laws and often racist efforts to make it harder for people to vote. We should also pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act, which I co-sponsored in 2015, because the assault on voting rights across the country proves that federal oversight is needed to protect people's rights.

VETERANS

33. What reforms are needed in the VA system?

I have kept a quote on my desk in Congress that was given to me by a veteran. It reads: "Because they have already paid the price, fight for veterans with all your might." I have worked tirelessly to ensure that veterans get the care they have earned. My bipartisan legislation, VA CORE, was signed into law to help reduce the VA claims backlog that has affected thousands of veterans across the nation.

I was also the first member of Congress to bring the allegations about the devastating scheduling practices at the Phoenix VA to the Inspector General, prompting an investigation of VA facilities nationwide. In the wake of that scandal, I served on the bipartisan House-Senate conference committee that crafted the most significant VA reform bill in years

34. What do you see is needed to combat the nearly 20 Veteran suicides a day?

I was an original co-sponsor of the bipartisan Veteran Suicide Prevention Act that would direct the VA to investigate veteran's deaths and make recommendation to reduce and prevent veteran suicides.

The heroic sacrifices of our servicemen and women must be honored not only while they are serving in uniform but also long after they have returned home. This is a principle that I hold deeply — and will continue to fight for our veterans each and every day.