

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'm running for Congress because I've always been passionately motivated to make a positive difference in the world. That's the reason I became a doctor and served in the State House, writing and passing legislation to give low-income women access to life-saving treatments for breast and cervical cancer. It's why I served two medical missions to impoverished communities in Nicaragua, and why I flew to hard-hit refugee camps in the Middle East.

I'm not afraid to stand behind my values. I am a proudly pro-choice, pro-Labor environmentalist. I'll always stand up against discrimination in any form because I've faced it myself as an openly gay man. Washington needs leaders who will never equivocate on the values important to us—who aren't afraid to stand up to bully's like Donald Trump, Steve Bannon, and others from the alt-right. That's the leadership I will bring to Congress.

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

While there are a lot of issues I will be active on, the accessibility of comprehensive, affordable, and quality healthcare is key. The Trump administration wants to kick millions of Americans off their healthcare and return to the days when insurance companies could deny coverage to people with preexisting conditions. I'm ready, eager—and above all—prepared for that challenge through my years of experience as a Tucson physician.

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I was asked to join the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services under President Barack Obama in order to strengthen and defend the Affordable Care Act. I leapt at that opportunity and I'm eager to carry on my advocacy from the halls of Congress.

ECONOMY/JOB

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

Investing in public education – K-12, universities, community colleges and vocational programs – is crucial to ensuring that we can continue to lead the world in innovation and supply businesses of all sizes with well-trained, homegrown applicants. In a border state like Arizona, it is also important that Congress stop its antagonism towards Mexico and instead encourage trade and job growth. Finally, paying workers a fair, livable wage will lift many working families out of poverty and put more money into the economy. I supported last year's ballot measure for a minimum wage increase and for earned paid sick leave, and in Congress I will support raising the federal minimum wage to \$15.

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

An increased federal minimum wage is one avenue I would pursue, but we also have to stop the hemorrhaging of tax dollars into tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest one percent.

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

As I mentioned above, I want to see an increase in the Federal minimum wage, to \$15.00 an hour, with indexing and parity for tipped workers. I would also index the minimum wage to inflation, as we did in Arizona.

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 are absolutely part of the solution. They represent the frontline workers who deliver products and services and who interface directly with consumers. Businesses that engage with their unions and employees benefit from ideas and innovations to stay competitive while guaranteeing a safe and respectful work environment for their employees. In congress, I will advocate for local unions and support collective bargaining.

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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?

This administration has decimated U.S. diplomacy, and has undone years of diplomatic progress worldwide. We need to take an interest in diplomacy, and work towards repairing the damage that the Trump administration has done to the United States in our capacity as a leader on the world stage. We need to work towards rebuilding our diplomatic relationships before we can hope to develop a just and robust foreign policy.

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

. Russian interference in our elections is now an established fact. How deep and broad that interference went and which American officials participated is the critical question. This question goes to the heart of American sovereignty and the sovereignty of its people. I see support for full investigation as a test of patriotism, and for that reason, I support Robert Mueller's independent investigation. However, the fact that Mr. Mueller is investigating does not let Congress off the hook. Congress has a constitutionally defined oversight role and the ability to issue subpoenas, and has been far too political and reticent to do its job.

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

The United States has traditionally been the world leader in keeping peace and stability, yet President Trump's bellicosity and loose lips are taking us away from stability and endangering peace. We do have an international role to play, but our work should be through international coalitions that leave military intervention as the option of last resort.

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

Simple panaceas such as our President's attempts to block Muslims from entering the country are both ineffective and destructive to the goal of ending terrorism—not to mention blatantly unconstitutional. A more serious approach is to increase cooperation with Muslim allies at home and abroad. Stable nations in the Middle East, steady cooperation, and not declaring war against an entire religion will get us farther in this fight.

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?

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I support efforts to expand Social Security benefits to address our growing national retirement security challenge. As private pension systems have all but disappeared, Social Security is often all that stands between millions of seniors and poverty. And like most Americans, I believe that seniors who've done their part and worked all their lives deserve a decent standard of living upon retirement.

Medicare should be fully funded and I oppose additional cuts. In the Arizona legislature I voted to expand access to healthcare, and at the Department of Health and Human Services I worked to implement the Affordable Care Act. Ensuring access to quality, affordable healthcare is an issue to which I am deeply committed. Congress can address costs by ensuring that businesses and the extremely wealthy pay their fair share in taxes.

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?

Government should play an active role in the nation's health care system. I support government actions like the Affordable Care Act, even though it is far from perfect. However, with my detailed knowledge of the ACA combined with my ongoing patient care experience, I am uniquely qualified to formulate and implement sensible modifications to the law. Per a US Supreme Court ruling, states were released from the compulsory eligibility change that would have required them to expand Medicaid programs to childless adults and other low-income populations. A simple adjustment by Congress would allow individuals and families caught in this coverage gap to receive federal assistance to enroll in a private health plan through their state marketplaces. This change alone would make over five million low-income Americans eligible for health care coverage in the affected states and I believe our government has a responsibility to get these people ensured.

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?

If elected, I would defend Planned Parenthood against ongoing efforts to eliminate federal or state funding for its health centers to provide preventative health care. I will oppose any effort that targets Planned Parenthood health centers for federal and state health care funding cuts. I oppose any legislation that limits the right of a woman to make the best decision for her health. That includes attempts to legislate a woman's intentions for deciding to end a pregnancy, criminalize health care providers, medically necessary

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restrictions for doctors and facilities, or otherwise interfering with the doctor-patient relationship.

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

See above.

EQUAL RIGHTS

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

I support legislation that would eliminate discrimination in employment based on sexual identity and gender expression. I also support legislation and initiatives to remove barriers to updating identity documents for transgender people. I also support measures and initiatives to train law enforcement agencies on best practices for interacting with transgender and gender nonconforming individuals.

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

In addition to the two issues mentioned above, I would work hard to reverse Trump's senseless ban on transgender individuals serving in the military. Anyone who is able and willing to serve their country should be allowed to do so without interference from political leaders locked in partisan politics.

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

No one in America should ever go hungry, which is why I support bolstering the SNAP program to make sure that everyone can have access to food regardless of financial circumstances. Along with providing assistance for when people fall on hard time, we must also work to improve the overall economic environment to tackle the issue of income inequality which leads directly to hunger and food insecurity. Additionally, we must have proper oversight and safeguards to ensure that our food and water supply is safe for public consumption.

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?

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I support requiring charter schools to meet the same requirements as traditional public schools, particularly as they relate to civil rights, safety laws, and teacher quality. Students should also have access to the full range of support programs to meet their social and emotional needs in order to reduce the frequency of incidences of harassment. All students deserve to learn in a healthy social environment free from bullying and discrimination.

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?

I believe that the federal government should increase the quality of American education. K-12 education is the foundation of American prosperity and the federal government should invest in its improvement. The federal government should also support state efforts to hold schools accountable for meeting standards and reward teachers and schools that exceed standards. Additionally, the persistent achievement gap is one of our country's most pressing long-term problems. I believe that expanding and fully supporting early childhood education programs, such as Head Start, should play a significant role in our efforts to close the achievement gap. Additionally, we should support federal initiatives that aim to disrupt the funding disparity between schools that serve advantaged and disadvantaged students.

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

Expanding access to an affordable college education is vitally important to strengthening the middle class and working families. If a college education requires undertaking a mountain of debt, then we restrict opportunity to the majority of our citizens. I support allowing those with student loan debt to refinance at the same rate offered to Wall Street banks by the Federal Reserve. And I support keeping Pell Grants strong as one of our most effective methods for ensuring access to college in the face of rising costs

PUBLIC SAFETY

21. What reforms should be implemented in law enforcement?

I support current justice system reforms that reduce incarceration rates for non-violent offenders while focusing our law enforcement resources on dangerous offenders. Just as important are rehabilitation and reintegration services that allow incarcerated individuals to successfully transition into society.

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

It is important that law enforcement and legal institutions work in coalition to implement the changes mentioned above.

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

While I am a strong supporter of the second amendment and believe it is a right for law abiding and responsible citizens to own a gun, I am also a supporter of implementing common sense gun safety measures which prevent criminals or terrorists from obtaining weapons, large capacity magazines, and to cut down on interstate trafficking.

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

Congress must take action to combat sexual violence and assault. We must first begin by preserving programs that tackle the issue of sexual assault on our campuses. Furthermore, we must make a greater effort of creating a dialogue nationwide to address the underlying causes of sexual violence.

IMMIGRATION

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

I am a strong proponent of implementing a dynamic naturalization system to replace the rigid series of quotas based on nationality that exist now. Preference should be given to individuals who are qualified in national industries targeted for growth, as well as for family reunification. That said, a screening process which rules out individuals with criminal records here or in their home countries is necessary as well.

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

Deportation should be reserved for those involved in violent or nonviolent criminal activity at the felony level who have overstayed a visa or otherwise violated the terms of their residency.

27. Do you support a citizenship pathway?

Yes, I support Comprehensive Immigration Reform with an earned path to citizenship. Passing the Dream Act would bring relief to millions of people, allowing them to come out of the shadows, pursue a quality education, receive proper healthcare and become entrepreneurs and innovators that will provide economic opportunities that will serve to improve our country.

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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?

If elected to Congress, I will promote and vote for new legislation that promotes clean, alternative energy sources. We must do more to address carbon pollution, and we should look for new ways to reduce our carbon emissions.

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

I support extending the wind tax credit so that companies can effectively plan new ventures and expand on what currently exists. We should also invest more money in clean energy research to jumpstart new ideas and make our current technology better and cheaper.

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

The 2015 decision to enter into the Paris Climate Agreement was a testament to progressive foreign policy decision-making. Withdrawing from the treaty represents a step backwards, both for climate justice and international diplomacy.

VOTING/ELECTIONS

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

We must overturn Citizens United, and get dark money out of politics. In its Citizens United decision, the Supreme Court opened the floodgates of campaign finance corruption. The voices of ordinary citizens are being drowned out by dark money, special interests, and corporations. I would support a constitutional amendment that reverses this decision and grants Congress and the state's power to regulate campaign finance. I also support legislation requiring dark money entities, such as 501(c)(4) groups to disclose their donors and spending when they engage in any political activity that mentions a candidate for federal office and/or is intended to influence a federal election. Voters have a right to know who is providing the information that they are using to inform their decisions.

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

The American established right to vote is in jeopardy. We must stand up in the face of tactful discrimination and overt voter suppression, intended to keep certain populations away from voting booths. Congress must take immediate action to reinstate protections

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invalidated by the misguided Shelby V Holder decision, and the pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act.

VETERANS

33. What reforms are needed in the VA system?

Most veterans receiving care at the VA state that their care was excellent. However, the logistics of enrolling in the VA system are an obstacle to providing adequate care to our servicemen and women. We need to do everything we can to streamline this enrollment process and make sure that all of our veterans have access to adequate care.

I also support the community referral program for veterans, which allows those seeking care who are not able to be admitted to the VA to seek treatment elsewhere. These outside care facilities are then reimbursed by the VA. This program should also be streamlined and made more effective.

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

Increasing investment in mental health services is absolutely critical to veteran care. We must prioritize fighting for mental health and reducing the stigma associated with treatment options, while ensuring that veterans and all communities have access to behavioral health services when they need them. I served 3 years of my residency at the Tucson VA Hospital and have nothing but respect for the men and women who have served in the armed forces. They have certainly earned the right to top quality care.