

## 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 to bring a new direction, a new vision, and a new generation of leadership to Washington. It is time we lift the cloud of complacency that hangs over our nation's capital.

I am not running a campaign against President Trump or Congresswoman McSally. I am not running **against** anything. I am running a high-energy progressive campaign **for** good high-paying jobs, high-quality affordable health care for all southern Arizonans, a clean and healthy environment, an immigration system that unites us-not divides us, and a public education system that is second to none and the global gold standard.

As a small business owner in both Pima and Cochise counties, as an educational advocate for the University of Arizona, and as a community activist on multiple issues near and dear to southern Arizonans I believe I bring a multitude of qualifications to the table. I will take these skills and experiences to Washington and fight for CD-2 all day, every day.

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

We cannot solve the problems that plague our nation today by only attacking one issue. As a Congressman, I will fight for you on multiple fronts. I will work to implement a health care system that covers all Americans, fully fund public education system, combat climate change through aggressive federal legislation, and fight for a comprehensive humane immigration policy that reflects our values and diverse country.

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### ECONOMY/JOB

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

Congress needs to protect our Main Street economy by voting for tax reform that reduces the tax and regulatory burden on small businesses.

Elected officials in Washington also need to raise the federal minimum wage which will stimulate the economy and create jobs. An increased minimum wage provides hard working Americans with income to spend and it increases their consumer purchasing power.

Congress should also vote to make significant long-term investments in rebuilding and expanding our country's infrastructure. This investment will create good high-paying jobs that cannot be shipped offshore and it will keep America competitive in the global marketplace for years to come.

Lastly, Congress can work to reduce student debt. Graduates, not to mention those who don't finish college cannot fully participate in our national economy when they owe debt the size of a mortgage.

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

The federal government can start by raising the minimum wage which will help build an economy that works for everyone, not just for millionaires, billionaires, and the one percent.

Education is one of our society's great equalizers and a high quality public education should be accessible and affordable to all Americans. We need to fully fund both the federal and state sides of public education and help provide all who seek it, the education and skills they will need to participate in today's changing global economy.

The federal government must also make our tax code more fair and progressive and vote to close loopholes that mainly benefit the wealthy. The tax rates for those at the top 1% have been declining even as their share of income and wealth has increased dramatically. It's time for everyone to pay their fair share.

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

Currently, there are 45 million Americans living in poverty. This is unacceptable to me. I would like to see the federal minimum wage incrementally raised to \$15. After this we need to look at tying any further increase in the minimum wage to inflation so we never fall behind our promise to the American People on providing opportunity and fair pay for a day's work. We need to make sure that we incrementally increase the federal minimum wage so that small businesses have time to adjust to the new increase. America is supposed to be a land of opportunity, where hard work and sweat equity is rewarded. But today's federal minimum wage is not enough for a family to make ends meet.

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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 am the son of a Teamster and a public school teacher. I know that unions are part of the solution to a prosperous America, not part of the problem. Stronger unions mean a stronger middle class and a stronger economy.

Congress can strengthen labor by fighting for fair wages, workplace safety, stronger collective bargaining rights, and family leave. Congress also needs to vote against trade agreements like TPP which undermine America's businesses and the American worker. By voting for pro-labor policies, Congress can help rebuild the middle class and better the lives of our working families.

### 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?

A major foreign policy issue that concern me is the recent protectionist and isolationist stance our country has taken on the world stage. We need to maintain our global engagement and continue to foster strong relationships with our allies and partners around the world.

Other foreign policy issues that concern me are: terrorism, a nuclear North Korea with long-range strike capabilities, and an aggressive Russia. To address these issues Congress must continue consistent funding to the State Department so they can focus on their core missions around the world.

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

I think levying stronger sanctions against key sectors of the Russian economy would be a solid start. The initial economic sanctions were so narrowly targeted that they could be seen as just a symbolic. Though I would not currently support blanket embargos, say against their energy sector which would upend the global economy would work with Congress to find a tough middle ground where they know we mean business.

If after Robert Mueller's investigation is concluded it's found that members of Trump's campaign team were in direct collusion with the Russian government, we need to prosecute those individuals to the full extent of the law. If President Trump was directly involved, I would support impeachment proceedings.

Additionally, the interference highlighted how vulnerable we are to cyber-attacks. We need to make significant investments in our nation's digital infrastructure so we will not be vulnerable again to attacks like these again.

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

The first priority and responsibility of any elected official is to keep their constituents safe.

If there is an imminent threat to our national security or American lives, or if there is an attack on American soil I believe the U.S. should engage, if the situation warrants, in either pre-emptive or retaliatory measures to neutralize that threat.

In non-imminent threat situations, I will always advocate for a diplomatic first solution. Washington must exhaust all diplomatic options before military measures, which should be seen as the last resort, are put into action.

Before entering into any foreign conflict I would like to see us work more closely with our allies and strategic partners around the globe. Though I believe we should project American leadership abroad and take a leadership role it does not mean we need to take a leading or central role among all the other countries in every single international affair.

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

Though drone strikes, manned airstrikes, and special operations raids have eliminated major terrorist leaders and reduced the operational capacity of some terrorist networks, existing evidence shows that extremist groups have continued to grow in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa.

Killing terrorists won't kill terrorism. Since security measures will not succeed alone; we need to start looking at the root of the problem and the steps one takes to become radicalized. The United States should incorporate a long-term strategy into finding effective methods to reach people prone to extremism and then cross-culturally educating them. Nobody is born a terrorist, education is key to reducing terrorism.

## 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?

We need to keep our promise to our seniors and protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare.

I will never vote for legislation that weakens these critical programs. I pledged several months ago to never vote to cut Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security and that pledge includes no increase to the retirement age. That's a pledge I will honor and keep. I will never turn my back on our district's seniors and disabled.

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Neither Medicare nor Social Security can sustain and remain fully funded under currently scheduled financing. Congress must act immediately to ensure the long-term fiscal viability and sustainability of these two bedrock retirement programs.

To bring some long-term stability to the social security trust fund, Congress can make progressive incremental adjustments to payroll taxes and implement income caps.

For my thoughts on Medicare, see below.

### 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 believe that all Americans should have health insurance coverage.

I fully support Medicare for All. Health care is a human right. Not a privilege. It's time to move our country forward and leave no one behind. Together, let's guarantee that all Americans can get the health care they desperately need.

By expanding Medicare to everyone, we would save billions of dollars a year by significantly reducing the administrative waste and overhead associated with today's private health insurance industry. Additionally, with our new vast purchasing power, we could effectively save billions more by negotiating with pharmaceutical companies for reduced drug prices.

Those savings alone would not be enough to fully fund this health care delivery system. To help bridge that gap, I will work with my colleagues in Congress in pushing forward a more progressive tax code which will require millionaires, billionaires and the one percent to pay their fair share.

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?

The federal government can reduce the rate of unintended pregnancy by supporting and funding adolescent sexual health education and making birth control accessible to all those that seek it out.

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

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I think the federal government needs to stand by Roe v Wade and allow a woman to make her own health care decisions. I will never vote for legislation that would restrict a woman's choice to make her own health care decisions.

### EQUAL RIGHTS

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

America prospers when all are given basic protections for economic and job security. We can no longer have qualified, hardworking Americans being discriminated in the workplace. Congress can take one immediate step to better protect Americans from workplace discrimination by passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. This critical proposed legislation would prohibit discrimination in hiring and employment based on gender or sexual identity.

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

Marriage Equality was one step in the right direction for LGBTQ rights...but we need to go further. I believe that we need to amend our current civil rights laws and a handful of other federal laws to prohibit discrimination in public spaces, services, and federally funded programs on the basis of sex, which is why I support H.R. 2282 which does just that. With over 240 cosponsors this is the type of LGBTQ protections that will have a lasting effect on our communities and our nation in showing how far we've come.

We also need to protect our LGBTQ youth. When over 40% of the homeless population in the U.S. identify as LGTBQ we know we haven't done enough. We must support them with the resources they would need with youth shelters, emergency outreach, Youth prevention programs, and rural and urban assistance programs so we can tackle these issue before they become a larger problem.

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

There is no state or community in America that is immune to hunger. Congress can strengthen and invest in the federal nutrition programs, and seek to fight hunger at its source. We need to reinvest in our underserved communities with reauthorizing and expanding programs like the "promise zone" designations as well as school lunch assistance programs for our kids.

When it comes to the safety and security of our food we must hold the FDA accountable to properly label and test GMO products so that we know the food that we are eating isn't harmful for us.

In terms of water resources we much secure our aquifer, waterways, lakes, and rivers from large scale industrial dumping, fracking, and large scale industrial farming that either waste or pollute our precious resources.

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### 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 there are no current federal laws specifically focused on bullying within our schools, we should fund and expand what we currently do in the DOE in training teachers on how to combat bullying within their schools and classrooms. Additionally, federal discrimination statutes generally only cover bullying that occurs at school, on the bus, or at school-sponsored events-we need to expand this to the internet where there is a significant growth in 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?

There are many factors to the outcomes of students who are seeking to enter college or an equivalent level of secondary education. I think that these issues should be addressed on a state level where the majority of educational funding comes from. Per-pupil spending needs to be increased in states that perform lower nationally in high school graduation rates. Arizona currently ranks 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in education. This is unacceptable to me. We can and must do better.

To remedy this, I would fully fund federal programs like Upward Bound which offer college prep courses to first generation-low income students. Both Pima County Community College and Cochise College take part in these critical federal education program. Programs like these have shown significant outcomes in making seniors ready for college-level coursework.

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

There are several effective ways Congress can help to make college more affordable. One extremely effective measure Congress can take to make college more affordable for millions of Americans is to strengthen, protect, and expand the federal Pell Grant program.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

21. What reforms should be implemented in law enforcement?

I greatly respect the men and women of law enforcement who keep our communities safe but I also believe we need reforms that reduce unnecessary arrests, over policing and incarceration. There should be no “with us or against us” narrative when it comes to law enforcement. I believe one can be pro-cop but also pro-reform.

I would like to see the federal government continue to work with local law enforcement in reforming policies that focus on police brutality, the use of deadly force and how law enforcement agencies work with the minority communities within their jurisdiction. I also stand

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firmly opposed to the continued militarization of our local law enforcement and I oppose the sale of military equipment to local and municipal police departments.

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

Our criminal justice system of mass incarceration is broken and its reform is desperately needed. Three steps Congress can take are:

- Get the United States government out of the private prison system.
- Reform mandatory minimums for non-violent offenses.
- Ban the box from federal employment applications.

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

I will always support and stand by the Second Amendment and defend the right to bear arms but I will also support stronger common-sense efforts to reduce the number of people killed or injured by guns.

When elected, I will always vote for universal background checks, closing the gun show loop hole, closing the internet sale loophole, and preventing those on the terror watch list from legally buying a gun.

I support current federal guidelines regarding gun possession.

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

We must do all we can to prevent sexual violence from occurring and to help victims receive the help and support they need after an assault. I would never support federal budget cuts in Congress that would diminish protections and services for sexual assault victims.

Congress needs to put more resources behind combating sexual assaults on college campuses and in the military. With the University of Arizona and several military installations located here in southern Arizona, these measures would greatly affect our community. Congress also needs to continue addressing the significant backlog of untested rape kits and appropriate funding to test every single untested kit. As our district's representative in Congress, I will do all I can to help federal and local law enforcement respond to sex crimes.

## IMMIGRATION

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

I stand in support of current immigration eligibility criteria and an immigration policy that focuses on family reunification and keeping our economy strong and positioned to compete in tomorrow's economy. I oppose the Trump administration's recent attempts at merit based immigration reform. Regardless of how much English you can speak or how much education

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or money you have you should be able to come to the United States and have the opportunity to realize the American Dream. The doors of America should always be open to those who help us weave the diverse fabric of our nation.

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

We need an immigration enforcement system that emphasizes and prioritizes removing criminals not non-dangerous law-abiding individuals. This policy is humane and it makes our country safer.

27. Do you support a citizenship pathway?

I support a pathway to citizenship. I am against the forced deportation of 12 million people. It is not a socially viable or fiscally responsible solution. Let's bring these folks out of the shadows and get them right with the law and on the books.

## 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?

First and foremost, I believe in science, I believe that climate change is real and I believe that we have played a part in making that happen.

Congress needs to take aggressive action to combat climate change. Some measures they can take to address this critical issue are:

- Fully fund the Environmental Protection Agency and protect federal regulations and policies that benefit our environment.
- Mandate that federally funded infrastructure projects take global warming into account.
- Increase subsidies and tax breaks for the renewable energy sector and the technologies of tomorrow.
- Enact strategic short and long-term policies aimed at preserving and conserving Earth's precious natural resources like water which plays such a big role in a drought risk state like Arizona.

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

Arizona needs to lead from the front and show bold leadership in the renewable energy sector. When I am elected, I will fight day in and day out to make Arizona the Solar Capital of the World.

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Just as the federal government supported significant investments in the gas and oil industries, they must now invest comparable resources in renewable energy and position our current and future energy policy towards the green energy sources of the future.

Current subsidies to solar and wind are substandard for sufficient growth and long-term sustainability. Congress needs to repeal current fossil fuel subsidies and pass legislation that greatly increases subsidies and tax breaks for the renewable energy sector, energy efficient homes, and electric vehicles.

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

I fully oppose the U.S. pulling out of the Paris climate agreement. The United States needs to continue leading on global climate change not take a back bench leadership position. I applaud our major cities in this country for seeing the long term effects of climate change as a threat to our humanity and taking steps on a state and local level to address these concerns.

### VOTING/ELECTIONS

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

I think term limits and comprehensive campaign finance reform legislation are both critical to address political corruption. That is why I have pledged to an 8 year term-limit in the U.S. House of Representatives and pledged to not take money from corporations or individuals who are registered as federal lobbyists. When I am in Congress I will work to build bipartisan support behind a constitutional amendment imposing term limits and a constitutional amendment focusing on overturning Citizens United.

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

There are many measures that can be taken to ensure every citizen has the right to vote: For brevity's sake, below are three measures I support that I believe will make a positive impact.

- Mandate automatic voter registration.
- Make Election Day a national holiday.
- Restore protections of the Voting Right Act.

### VETERANS

33. What reforms are needed in the VA system?

The VA's health care delivery system is in need of comprehensive reforms to ensure that veterans receive quality, timely, and affordable health care. We need to honor our commitments to our former service members and fully fund this important department.

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I support recent reforms within the VA that extend funding to the Veterans Choice Program, address the backlog of disability appeals, increase staffing at suicide hotlines, and add greater protections for whistleblowers. These measures address some systemic problems that have plagued the VA for decades. I believe these are sound reforms from which the department can build upon and improve upon over time. When I am elected, I will always support and vote to extend these programs.

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

We need to do better by our veterans. Far too many veterans have fallen victim to suicide. Congress needs to continue taking decisive action in expanding mental health care and addressing the suicide crisis in the veteran community.

I support recent initiatives within the VA that make it possible for veterans with other-than-honorable discharges to get full access to mental health care. This will help a lot of people and I believe this will make a great impact. After I am elected, I will fight to keep this initiative going.

I also support medical marijuana and the end of federal prohibitions on medical marijuana- including declassifying marijuana as a Schedule-1 drug. Many veterans I meet on the campaign trail tell me medical marijuana controls their PTSD symptoms. I want to make sure they get the medication they need to control those symptoms.