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COMPLETE

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**Q1**

Name

Junelle Cavero

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**Q2**

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

AZ State Senate LD 11

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**Q3**

Email

Junelle@CaveroforAZ.com

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**Q4**

Respondent skipped this question

Phone Number

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**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?

Just as I fought for every American veteran to have access to healthcare worldwide, I will continue the fight for every Arizonan to have quality, accessible and affordable health care. I will work to protect reproductive rights, children's health care, and expand funding and access for behavioral and mental health. Arizonan families should have healthcare coverage despite legal or financial barriers.

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**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?

It is widely recognized that a child's brain continues to develop and change through adulthood. Thus, the first 8 years of life are a crucial time in a child's development. These fundamental years will build a foundation for learning, health, and success that will follow a child for their life. I will firmly promote a public-private partnership between regional teaching colleges, universities, and local school districts to address the needs of our public schools and to ensure they have the resources to adequately support their students and the families they serve. We should work closely with our state Superintendent of Public Instruction, local and regional education leaders, and school districts to ensure that our local public schools have all the resources they require to safely serve our children.

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**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?

Arizonans need quality paying jobs that provide economic security and upward mobility. I will advocate for better healthcare, safe working environment, union development and the right to organize. To prepare Arizonan's workforce for today's economy, we must create more competitive pay structures that reflect inflation and provide a living wage. We must attract companies that offer good benefits. We should also have more labor training programs to share with students and young professionals. All too often families fall through the cracks and when they do, we must ensure we have access to comprehensive safety net programs. These programs most focus on issues such as kinship care support that is on par with foster care programs and programs that streamline the process for licensure of foster care and kinship care providers. When families run afoul of the juvenile justice system, it is imperative that penalties do not create a burden that families cannot meet and must focus on creating productive members of society.

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**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

As a mother of two daughters in primary school, I believe the legislature should stop their repeated attacks on public education; increase revenues allocated to improve daily maintenance and operations; increase teacher pay; and either create or increase capital funding to provide all of our students with proper books and access to technology. Now more than ever, we must increase our education revenue due to the growth of mental health issues and continued shortage of behavior specialists, all of which has been exacerbated by the pandemic. I would firmly promote a public-private partnership between regional teaching colleges, universities, and local school districts to address the shortage of substitute teachers. We should work closely with our state Superintendent of Public Instruction, local and regional education leaders, and school districts to safely operate our schools.

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**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?

I am dedicated to only support legislation that will ensure that every Arizonan and each business operating in Arizona pays their fair share of the tax burden.

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**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?

As a previous director for Arizona Fair Housing, I am acutely aware that we must increase our state's minimum wage. Additionally, home prices and rent have increased due to a combination of increased land costs, growing labor costs, supply chain shortages, and zoning approvals for apartments and affordable housing - all of which must be addressed through both private and public efforts. Housing discrimination is on the rise in group homes. Arizona must invest in affordable housing options for working families as quickly as possible. It is also of the utmost importance that the legislature institute a program(s) to make it easier for Arizonans to purchase homes or rent in Arizona and not to be displaced by the influx of people who are moving to our state. Arizona must be affordable for all Arizonans.

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