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COMPLETE

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Q1

Name

Brandy Reese

Q2

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

State House, LD14

Q3

Email

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Q4

Respondent skipped this question

Phone Number

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?

Many Arizonans are underinsured or blocked from getting coverage due to high premiums and complicated government eligibility rules. I will fight for billionaires and wealthy corporations to pay what they owe through taxes and to provide affordable healthcare that is available to everyone, including mental health and addiction treatment. This may include revision of the complicated eligibility rules as well as revision and updating of actuarial studies that inform the true cost of providing care.

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?

Arizona defines child neglect as the inability or unwillingness of a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child to provide that child with supervision, food, clothing, shelter or medical care if that inability or unwillingness causes unreasonable risk of harm to the child's health or welfare. In impoverished families, this ability to provide for the child could simply be a lack of resources, not an unwillingness to do so. This is likely increasingly the case with rising inflation and lack of affordable housing we are experiencing. Child safety has got to be the number one priority and changing the statutory definition of neglect could help more clearly define the criteria to achieve that goal. These families need to be supported, not fearful of losing their children if they seek help. Providing access to fully funded pre-k and access to child care are paramount to supporting parents as they seek to support their families.

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?

Our state currently has a \$5+ Billion surplus. We know that investing resources to support families and their ability to provide food, shelter, and basic necessities, will help lift these families out of poverty and prevent children from entering the foster care system. We saw a dramatic reduction in child poverty from the federal child tax credits. Arizona should reinstate and expand the monthly child tax credit.

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

We currently have a multi-billion dollar surplus. Investing in our K-12 funding is one of the best ways to spend that surplus. We need to raise per pupil spending to at least the national median and block the expansion of vouchers that take money out of our public, neighborhood community schools.

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?

The disastrous and ill-advised 'flat tax' needs to be repealed and replaced. Evidence shows us that historically the middle class was most robust when the wealthiest among us paid a much higher tax rate. Additionally, this is when our economy on the whole is the healthiest, when our country has a large middle class. The argument from too many politicians that taxing the wealthy who create jobs is a false narrative that is not born out by facts. Wealth does NOT trickle down, in fact, quite the opposite. We need to re-establish a progressive tax.

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?

Aside from the solutions discussed above (providing pre-K and access to affordable child care, repealing the flat tax, and reinstating and expanding the child tax credit) we must raise the minimum wage, protect and support the unionization of workers, and make criminal justice reforms that ensure access to mental health care and addiction treatment.
