

#49

COMPLETE

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Q1

Name

Charles "Charlie" Verdin

Q2

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

LD18 House

Q3

Email

charlie@charlieverdin.com

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?

Yes, I support any efforts to increase healthcare coverage, especially among children.

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?

One of my highest priorities (other than generally increasing funding for public education, which will also help) is expanding access to pre-K and subsidizing early childcare centers for children as young as 6 weeks old. Having access to stable care and learning environments is very important for young children, especially for the increasing number of families in which both parents work, as well as single parent families. Currently, childcare is very expensive while childcare workers get paid very little to do this massively important work of caring for our youngest children. We need to fund early childcare to both make it more accessible for parents and to pay childcare workers appropriately for their work.

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?

We need to work to increase housing affordability. We can increase the supply of affordable housing, but it's more important that we keep people in their current housing as much as possible. We need to increase eviction protections, expand housing assistance, and if necessary consider rent controls to slow the rapid rate of rent increases. In short, we need to keep people off of the streets.

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

Yes, this is one of my highest priorities. We need to increase our per-pupil spending by at least 50% in order to become competitive in education, even compared to other states with similar income levels.

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 support a progressive income tax that shifts more of the tax burden onto those better able to bear it. I also support amending the state constitution so that state revenues can be increased with simple majority approval in the legislature instead of requiring approval from two-thirds of the legislature.

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?

First, as discussed above, I will work to make housing more affordable. Likewise, as discussed above, I will work to invest in early childcare, which will both decrease the burden on parents and create more, better-paying jobs in the childcare industry. Finally, by investing in public education we can increase our workforce of teachers and other jobs in the educational system, which may serve to improve our economy in many ways: more well-paid teachers would already have ripple effects on the economy, of course, but we would also be producing more highly-educated citizens primed to either enter a high-skilled workforce or become innovators and employers themselves. A strong educational system also attracts high-skilled workers from elsewhere, making the state more attractive for employers seeking high-skilled workers. In short, we're currently seeing the results of our race-to-the-bottom approach to education, and we stand to benefit greatly from turning ourselves around in that regard.
