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Q1

Name

Anna Hernandez

Q2

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

AZ State Senate LD 24

Q3

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Q4

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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?

I would advocate for an expansion of WIC and AHCCCS with more funding going into making these programs accessible to undocumented people, non-English speakers, and other groups often neglected by our healthcare system. We need to make sure public education about these programs and how to access them is distributed among those most in need.

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?

We need policies that make childcare, preschool and kindergarten available for poor and working-class families. Our state child care assistance policies are inadequate. If we can redirect funding from law enforcement and prisons to our child care assistance programs, we can avoid child care assistance waiting lists. We can use that funding for free pre-school and kindergarten programs as well as programs for parents to supplement learning at home.

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?

Part of my platform is dedicated to addressing the housing crisis as well as advocating for better paying jobs in my district. In addition, I will advocate for more mental health and substance use support for parents who are unemployed or underemployed. We need a child welfare system that is made up of more people of color who have been trained in transformative justice and trauma-informed care.

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

I will advocate against state funding that prioritizes charter and private schools, and instead advocate for fully-funded public education. I will advocate for law enforcement and prison funding to be re-directed into education in Arizona, including books and computers, after-school programs, increased teacher pay, and more school counselors.

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 would advocate against policies such as Prop 307 and any and all tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations. I would push for legislation that prioritizes reparations to Black, Brown and Indigenous communities whose land and futures have been impacted by oppression and neglect.

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?

I will advocate for the \$15 minimum wage in Arizona, including raising the minimum wage for tipped workers. I will fight against tax breaks for the wealthy that would otherwise fund public education and job assistance programs. I would advocate to redirect law enforcement funding into programs like those that support people in staying in their homes rather than foreclosing.
