

#19

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 2:41:28 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 2:48:48 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:07:19  
**IP Address:** 68.228.211.222

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Name

Jennifer Longdon

---

**Q2**

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

Arizona House – LD5

---

**Q3**

Email

jen@jenforaz.com

---

**Q4**

Phone Number

602.529.8784

---

**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 have been fighting hard for quality, affordable health care for many years. My first significant activism following my recovery from gun violence was to organize 14,000 volunteer hours advocating for the Affordable Health Care Act, and I have been fighting for quality healthcare at an affordable price ever since. I am proud to cosponsor numerous bills to improve access to quality healthcare for children and families, including but not limited to the following: • HB2227 and HB2313 – appropriates \$3.45MM to increase enrollee six-week postpartum visits. • HB2229 – requires release of a prisoner’s medical records to a family member or other designated individual within 15 days of authorization. • HB2306 – includes comprehensive dental care in AHCCCS-covered services for pregnant women • HB2312 – expands AHCCCS coverage to qualified women for first year post-partum. • HB2441 – appropriates \$10.75MM to the Healthy Families Program, which provides services designed to prevent child abuse or neglect and to promote child development and wellness to children under five years of age and members of their families. • HB2442 – appropriates \$10MM for grants to community health centers, critical access hospitals and area health education centers in areas experiencing healthcare workforce shortages • HB2526 (Prime Sponsor) – expands AHCCCS coverage to individuals who need complex rehabilitation technologies. • HB2528 – appropriates \$1.5MM for distribution to area agencies for home and community-based services. • HB2691 – appropriates more than \$47MM to fund healthcare workforce grant programs to increase availability of healthcare in Arizona. • HB2704 – includes preventative dental care in AHCCCS-covered services. • HB2706 – creates a Food as Medicine grant pilot program to pilot innovative solutions highlighting the link between nutrition, diet-related illnesses and poor health outcomes • HB2796 – requires licensed health care practitioners to possess a valid fingerprint clearance card. • SB1293 – requires health coverage for reasonable and customary cost of hearing aids for children. • SB1537 – expands hearing evaluation services to preschool (currently, law covers Grade 1-12).

**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?

Development starts at birth. Ensuring that children have access to affordable housing and nutritious food are fundamentally essential to development. Affordable childcare, along with free pre-K and all-day kindergarten should be available to every child in our state. Additionally, as I have long argued, KidsCare should be expanded. (See, e.g., <https://www.azmirror.com/2021/03/11/expanding-kidscare-is-an-investment-that-will-pay-off/>).

**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?

As stated above, affordable housing and nutritious food are fundamentally essential to children’s development. I support removing the cap on TANF and SNAP. I am proud to cosponsor legislation to improve housing affordability for Arizonans, including the following: • HB2401 - repeals A.R.S. §§ 33-1329 and 33-1416 (C), laws that currently prohibit cities and towns from regulating rental prices. • HB2805 - increases the affordable housing tax credit allocation from \$4MM to \$10MM. • HB2806 - appropriates \$50MM from the state general fund for the Housing Trust Fund. • SB1531 - appropriates \$100 MM from monies allocated to Arizona from the American Rescue Plan to the Housing Trust Fund

### 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 Assistant Democratic Leader, I am working to ensure that a large portion of the \$5BIL surplus in both one-time and ongoing funds is directed toward education. I am fighting to remove the aggregate expenditure limit. Among other measures, I cosponsor the following legislation this session: ● HB2072 – increases funding for kindergarten programs. ● HB2073 – provides that school funding be adjusted for inflation going forward. ● HB2074 – requires all educators providing literacy instruction in kindergarten and primary school to evidence-based literacy instruction training. ● HB2335 – repeals the Aggregate Spending Limit. ● HB2530 – expands the Arizona Teachers Academy scholarship program to include students in university programs leading to initial certification as school psychologists, social workers, or counselors. ● HB2638 – appropriates \$100K to enable development of a curriculum on the history and contributions of AAPI — Asian American Pacific Islanders in the United States. ● HB2667 – appropriates funds so that every school must have one or more school counselors or school social workers. ● HB2705 – appropriates funds to provide partial subsidies for educators' family health care insurance premiums. ● HB2817 – appropriates \$3MM for school districts with less experienced educators to hire professional development and support personnel. ● SB1529 – requires DES to provide Child Care assistance (eliminates ability to put children on waiting lists rather than providing service). ● SB1537 – expands hearing evaluation services to preschool (currently, law covers Grade 1-12).

---

### 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?

Decades of GOP-led rule in the legislature have created a system whereby the legislature can cut a tax with a simple majority but it requires two-thirds of the Body to allow a referral to the voters on any new tax or tax increase. Democrats will have to address the AZ tax system and undue damage that flat tax and these rules have done. We're going to have to rewrite these rules so that we can create a fair and equitable tax system. I will fight to ensure that the sunset audit of ALL tax credits is actually done.

---

### 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 continue fighting for better education for ALL, quality, affordable healthcare and housing for ALL, and increased worker protections for ALL, including higher minimum wage and greater protections on employees' ability to organize.

---