



Legislative Candidate Education Survey 2018

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No candidates responded to the survey in these races:

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LD 12 House Race

No survey response from Lynsey Robinson (D), Travis Grantham (R), and Warren Petersen (R)

	Joe Bisaccia (D)	DJ Rothans (D)	Lynsey Robinson (D)	Nick Myers (R)	Blake Sacha (R)
What experiences in your background have prepared you to address Arizona's education challenges as a legislator?	As a science and technology teacher at Cooley Middle School in Gilbert (Higley Unified), I see firsthand the negative consequences of inadequate funding of our schools and the weakening standards for both educational attainment and educators. I know the importance of a quality education from my experience in journalism and technology sales and marketing.	Parenting 2 children in the Arizona public school system was a monumental challenge. Extensive self-education on destructive privatization through charter schools and vouchers which led the legislature to eviscerate public school funding are also preparation for this task.	As a former DREAMer, teacher and parent I understand the challenges that teachers and our students face. I know what our children are capable of when education is a priority. English is my third acquired language and I credit my success in academia to public education. I know that our children can succeed when we provide quality education starting from the first five years of life. They are capable of succeeding in post secondary education when we they are well prepared academically for college. As an attorney I	First, my wife has a masters degree in special education, and has worked in normal district schools. Second, until recently I owned an IT company and one of my customers was a charter school in the phoenix area. Third, since I have been running my campaign, I have had an open and honest policy of meeting with every single educator that has requested a one-on-one meeting (and a few that I have pursued).	I have a breadth and depth of experience which makes me uniquely qualified to lead the effort to solve some of Arizona's most difficult problems. As an experienced executive, I have successfully led small and large organizations, hired hundreds of people, managed multi-million dollar budgets and demonstrated the ability to build consensus and deliver results. I am a professional problem solver. I have a degree in chemical engineering, studied systems thinking at MIT and worked at Intel for 28 years solving complex problems. I have extensive experiencing using problem solving tools to solve diverse problems. I have a masters degree in education, taught hundreds of adult education

			<p>understand how laws with good intentions can have unintended consequences. I understand the practical component of policies and how it impacts a community. I will work to ensure that there are as few loopholes as possible to ensure that legislation has the desired outcome.</p>		<p>classes while at Intel and am currently an adjunct instructor at Grand Canyon University. I have demonstrated a unique ability to bring together stakeholders, listen to diverse opinions, find consensus, define solutions and deliver results. I want to apply these skills to the most difficult problems which we face.</p>
<p>What is your plan to ensure that public education in Arizona has an adequate and sustainable source of funding?</p>	<p>I support an overhaul of the Arizona tax system. We need to close corporate tax loopholes and move to a sustainable method for funding our schools permanently. This involves restructuring corporate, individual, property and sales taxes to be equitable and fair as well as provide a long-term sustainable stream of money to support education.</p>	<p>We must tackle corporate tax reform to find dedicated sources for public education funding. I would also look into increased taxes on tobacco products and liquor.</p>	<p>As a result of the 2008 recession, budget cuts were made to education. After the recovery, the Republican led legislature decided to cut taxes instead of restoring funding for public education. Currently, Arizona spends fourteen percent less per pupil than it did ten years ago. As a result, public education has become the most poorly funded in the nation and its teachers the least well-paid in the nation. Education funding comes from property taxes, sales taxes and personal/corporate taxes. Before, the public can be burdened even further with increased taxes; the state legislature must review the tax codes. There are several tax benefits that corporations receive which do not benefit the public, the legislature needs to revisit those tax incentives as a</p>	<p>First I want to address issues that are ripe for abuse. Things like the 100-day funding mechanism and school grade-letter system are not appropriate and can be easily addressed. Until we are willing to take a look at those fundamental issues (and likely many more), we don't stand a chance at ever being "adequate" or "sustainable".</p>	<p>Arizona leaders need to establish new revenue streams to adequately fund education. All options should be on the table, including reexamining gaming revenues, sales tax increase or lottery revenues. If the Legislature determines a tax increase is the part of the equation, the public should have the option to vote up or down on any increase and the proposed increase should reflect only the necessary amount of money to fund our priorities. I support a public K-12 school funding model where all of the funding would come from the state. It would be distributed through a simplified funding formula on a per student basis and there would be no capital vs operations restrictions.</p>

			revenue source for education.		
<p>Do you think all education dollars should be subject to the same level of transparency and oversight, whether they go to district or charter schools?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>ALL taxes should be subject to transparency and oversight. There is no place in a democracy for hidden golden cows.</p>	<p>Yes. Not all public schools have the same needs. For example some districts need to spend more on infrastructure than others. It is up to the board of each district to make those fundamental decisions and I do not take issue with the Board's discretion. I believe that all schools should operate with the same level of transparency for the protection of our children.</p> <p>Charter schools have a place in our education system. The lack of funding for traditional public schools have left parents looking for solutions for their children. However, accountability is necessary to protect our communities. Currently, several legislatures either own charter schools or are involved in dealings with charter schools that financially benefits them. This is blatant corruption at the expense of hard working tax paying Americans. Charter schools must not be allowed to turn in incomplete spending data to the state making it impossible to detect waste</p>	<p>Personally, yes, only because I wish to know where my tax dollars are going. HOWEVER, since charters do perform slightly higher than district schools, and given that many of my constituents have a “don’t mess with my charter school” attitude, I will support their will until a time when we can find better alternatives.</p>	<p>I do support fiscal accountability for all public schools. We all should be able to easily determine how our public education tax dollars are being spent. We should review what has worked well with charter schools in the last 20 years and proliferate those to other public schools and identify what has not worked well and fix them. District and Charter schools should all be working together to deliver excellent education for our Arizona students.</p>

			<p>or fraud. The legislature must pass legislation that requires charter schools to post their budget on their website for public transparency and accountability. The legislature must pass legislation that will remove loopholes that allows current legislators who own charter schools to engage in self-dealing.</p>		
<p>What is your opinion of the current ESA/voucher system? Do you support expanding the program beyond its current limits? Please explain.</p>	<p>I oppose the expansion of the ESA/voucher program because it diverts both funds and students from the public schools to private schools. Public schools are the great “melting pot” of American society and eliminating an economically diverse student body ultimately harms Arizona and America. As for the current program, if we funded our schools properly we wouldn’t need them.</p>	<p>ESA/vouchers were originally dedicated to special needs and/or disabled children in order to allow flexibility for placement. Expansion of the ESA/voucher system other than for those needs is further movement to gut the public education system while promoting privatization. I will emphatically vote NO on 305.</p>	<p>No. The vouchers currently only provide a 1/3 of the cost of a private education. As a result the people who were intended to benefit from the program are not able to benefit because they are unable to make up the financial difference or provide transportation for their children to and from schools. Ultimately, families who are able to pay for private education are the ones who benefit from the program the most. This is unfair to the families that the voucher was intended to benefit (special needs, children in the foster care system, military families, children living in tribal lands, children of parents with vision and hearing impairments, children in failing schools and siblings of those who qualify) and tax payers. As a result tax</p>	<p>Yes I do, but not with prop 305. I want to allow the legislature to do the expansion, not the public. I want to adopt a model such that schools like Thales academy can bring their model of private school to AZ in which they are able to make tuition costs so low that it fits within the ESA allotment. Thereby allowing anyone to choose a private school and use their allotted school money to pay for it reducing or removing costs out of pocket entirely. Furthermore, I DO NOT feel that ESA’s should be used for homeschooling. The cost to home school for those willing is negligible (or can be), and I absolutely do not want ANY government interference in such a successful program.</p>	<p>I am opposed to the expansion of vouchers and will vote no on 305. I want to focus the time and energy of our legislature on actions which will have the biggest impact on improving the quality of education for the most students in Arizona.</p>

			<p>payers are financially supplementing private education for those whose children already live in good public school districts.</p> <p>I would not oppose fixing the voucher system so that it does what it was intended to do. However, Prop 305 is not about fixing the problem. It is a cop out to fully funding our public schools and I oppose it.</p>		
<p>Did you support the override and bond for Gilbert Public Schools in 2015? Please explain.</p>	<p>Yes. The Gilbert vote in 2015 restored to the Gilbert public schools funding for educational programs, building upgrades and maintenance, busses, and teacher pay to prevent teacher losses to surrounding districts.</p>	<p>We must protect the Gilbert public school system with overrides/bonds until the legislature makes a concerted effort to restore public education funding. Our public education system contributes to economic advancement and property values while ensuring our children with a productive future.</p>	<p>I do not live in Gilbert. However, I do support bonds and overrides as a necessary means to fund our schools when the legislature fails to do so.</p>	<p>No, I don't live in Gilbert, so I really didn't pay attention.</p>	<p>Yes I did support both and worked actively to help them pass.</p>
<p>What are your plans for alleviating the severe teacher shortage in Arizona?</p>	<p>In addition to restoring teacher pay to competitive levels, I would offer a student loan forgiveness/repayment program for teachers working in public schools for a set number of years, such as 5 or 7 years. Most new teachers come out of college with debt of around \$30,000, which is proving to be a major</p>	<p>Teachers are underpaid and under-valued. Increasing teacher pay and honoring the profession with a resolution to fight for public perception through teacher revitalization are first steps.</p>	<p>As a former teacher, I understand how much work goes into the profession. This is not a job that should be done by those who have no training in the field of education. Our children should have more value to us than to place them with individuals who are untrained or unskilled in curriculum, and classroom</p>	<p>I don't see a "sever teacher shortage". Not one student has gone uneducated in AZ. Just because teachers are being pulled from elsewhere, or possibly don't have perfect qualifications, does not mean students are being uneducated.</p>	<p>Pay teachers a competitive salary</p> <p>Reduce classroom restrictions to allow teachers to teach</p> <p>Increase support for programs including teacher mentoring and tuition reimbursement</p>

	<p>impediment to household formation and homeownership. Teachers who own homes and raise families in their districts are good for their communities.</p>		<p>management.</p> <p>All over the world, even in third world countries; teachers are respected and the profession revered. We must change the way we see and think about teachers. It begins with paying our teachers what they are worth not what we can get away with paying them. In America, salary is synonymous with worth. I do not subscribe to that philosophy; but this is the fact. We can change the dialogue about how teachers are viewed by paying our teachers a salary that is worthy of the work that they do. The combination of salary increase, fully funding our classrooms and in time changed perception of the field will attract teachers back to Arizona.</p>		
<p>Do you think #RedforEd has been good for our state? Please explain.</p>	<p>Yes. It has awakened Arizonans to the devastation of education due to the budget cuts of the past 10 years and the negative consequences of underfunded public schools.</p>	<p>#RedForEd compelled an astounding impact on the state of emergency of our public schools. Until hundreds of thousands of red tee shirts showed up at the Capital, the 1% teacher pay increase was all there was in the budget. However, until the 20% increase touted by the Governor is paid for with a dedicated funding source, we must be</p>	<p>Yes. The #RedforEd movement has exposed the conditions that our children are subject to in the classrooms. It has exposed the legislatures corruption, self-dealing and sparked a debate about where our priorities lie as Americans. We all took teachers for granted. We all assumed that the problem will fix itself. We now know that when we</p>	<p>No. It is a political agenda that is misguided and has a severe lack of understanding of basic business economics. Their little stunt of walking out on students was uncalled for, possibly illegal, and actually harmed other discussions that should have taken place like future water planning for Arizona. They lost a ton of credibility for their cause</p>	<p>RedforEd has done an outstanding job of raising awareness of the issues with school funding and fiscal accountability across our state. This is good for our state. RedforEd has also been used to pit people across the education spectrum against each other. This is bad for our state. It is time to bring people together to find long term sustainable solutions to enable us to provide high quality education to all of Arizona's students.</p>

		<p>vigilant in seeking sustainable education funding sources.</p>	<p>become complacent in our government there are those who will seek to take advantage of hard working families who do not have time to watch how every legislature votes. We have become more aware of where our legislatures stand on the issue of education. As a result, the awareness has infiltrated multiple areas of politics and not just education. We want voters irregardless of party affiliation to vote informed.</p>	<p>and really did nothing but make themselves look like a bunch of party animals looking for a few days off at any cost to the students and parents.</p>	
<p>Besides funding, what do you believe to be the most pressing educational challenge our state faces, and how you would address it?</p>	<p>The biggest challenge is the recruitment and retention of qualified, great teachers who understand how to inspire our kids. Our society is undergoing rapid technology change, requiring teachers who are able to give children the intellectual tools necessary to live with and manage the impacts of the change in their daily lives, as well as to position them for the lifetime of learning demanded by the emergent digital age. I would support programs to continuously train teachers in how technology is evolving and impacting everything including the arts, language and humanities, not just the</p>	<p>Safety. I will commit to all reasonable safety measures to guarantee our children will return home safely every night. Infrastructure, however, is also on my radar. Our school building maintenance has been ignored. We must address this dangerous issue on another funding level.</p>	<p>Corruption and self-dealing in our charter schools are hurting our communities. Charter schools are opening and closing shortly after 100 days, just long enough to get funding. The teachers, parents and students often have no advance warning that this is going to happen. The parents have to scramble to find schools for their children. Our children are devastated by the impact both emotionally and academically. In my opinion, when this happens an investigation must be launched immediately and owners held liable pending the investigation reports.</p>	<p>Appropriations of funds that are already allocated. I already addressed how I would start addressing it above.</p>	<p>Lack of sufficient academic progress in grades k-3 among students in lower socioeconomic conditions, especially Hispanic children, is a critical issue that must be addressed for our future.</p>

	things we own.		<p>Gun violence in our schools must be curtailed/eliminated. We must drastically increase the counselor to student ratio as a means of preventing violence in our schools. Our teachers and counselors must work together to identify and provide resources depending on the situation to students who have been identified as those who could possibly benefit from counseling. We must lower the teacher to student ratio so that our educators are successful in instructing students and also are able to know their students; so that they can form relationships with them. It has been my observation that children/adolescents rebel when they are forced to adhere to authority when no relationship exist. We need to reduce the class sizes in order to help our teachers cultivate relationships with their students.</p>		
<p>In terms of education issues, what sets you apart from the candidate(s) running</p>	<p>My experience in journalism and sales, and my experience as a STEM teacher. I also bring a passionate intensity and energy to helping our kids learn and become great citizens.</p>	<p>Republicans pledge to privatize our children's education. Privatization must be curtailed in order to allow equitable schooling for all Arizona children.</p>	<p>I have a Master's degree in Education and have taught either in a substitute teaching capacity or as an elementary and secondary teacher from Kindergarten through 12th grade. I understand the unique needs of our students at</p>	<p>I successfully home school my children, so I have a much better ability to take a step back and look at the big picture. I don't have many preconceived notions. Furthermore, I have a background in project management in a</p>	<p>I have extensive experience in education, problem solving and managing large budgets. I have demonstrated the ability to bring groups of people together to effectively solve difficult problems.</p>

<p>against you?</p>			<p>the different stages of education. I am a mom with children attending both traditional public and charter school and understand the value that each bring to our communities.</p> <p>As a former DREAMER, my biggest hurdle was funding my own education in college and in law school. I understand the necessity and why it is so critical to fund state higher education. The American dream is based on the idea that anyone willing to work hard can fulfill their God given potential irregardless of the socioeconomic class they were born into. That is the result of Education. Education is the great equalizer. That is the story of my life, not a convenient talking point and I will fight to make quality education possible for every child/person who will be affected by any legislation I support.</p>	<p>corporate environment as well in the small business environment, so I have the ability to take a step back, look at the bigger picture, and find areas that can be improved upon.</p>	
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LD 12 Senate Race

No survey response from Eddie Farnsworth (R) and Jimmy Lindblom (R)

	<p>Elizabeth Brown (D)</p>
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<p>What experiences in your background have prepared you to address Arizona's education challenges as a legislator?</p>	<p>I come from a family of public educators. And I am a product of public education. My father taught high school English and Latin and then went on to get his PhD in Education. He was the superintendent in several school districts in Ohio and then was superintendent of the Ajo Unified School District. My mother was a grade school librarian, three of my sisters, my two brothers and I all taught in the public schools. My daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren all attended public schools. I know the importance of a good public education.</p>
<p>What is your plan to ensure that public education in Arizona has an adequate and sustainable source of funding?</p>	<p>In Arizona 75% of businesses only pay \$50.00 a year in taxes. This is unacceptable. We must hold large corporations accountable. We need to review the tax codes and close loop holes. I think it is Un-American that large corporations do not want to contribute and pay they fair shar of taxes. The Arizona tax policies for the past few decades have disproportionately favored the wealthiest and large corporations.</p>
<p>Do you think all education dollars should be subject to the same level of transparency and oversight, whether they go to district or charter schools?</p>	<p>Yes, all education dollars should be subject to the same level of transparency and oversight whether they go to district or charter schools. All charter schools receiving public tax dollars must be held to the exact same standards as public schools.</p>
<p>What is your opinion of the current ESA/voucher system? Do you support expanding the program beyond its current limits? Please explain.</p>	<p>I do not support expanding the ESA/voucher system. Public tax dollars are public, which means the monies stay in the public schools.</p>
<p>Did you support the override and bond for Gilbert Public Schools in 2015? Please explain.</p>	<p>Yes, I did support the override and bond for Gilbert Public Schools. I talked to neighbors and canvassed neighborhoods in support of the override.</p>
<p>What are your plans for alleviating the severe teacher shortage in Arizona?</p>	<p>Arizona needs to be competitive in teacher salaries and benefits and do away with the school voucher program. We must hold large corporations accountable to paying their fair share taxes to support our public schools.</p>
<p>Do you think #RedforEd has been good for our state? Please explain.</p>	<p>It was good for our teachers to bring attention to the dire situation facing Arizona’s public education system. This was a good start yet so much more work needs to be done such as having a permanent funding base. Educators called for a 20% pay raises for teachers and certified staff, annual raises until the state-teacher salary reaches the national average, return funding to 2008 levels and decrease class sizes 23:1. None of these were addressed.</p>
<p>Besides funding, what do you believe to be the most pressing educational challenge our state faces, and how you would address it?</p>	<p>The most pressing educational challenge our state faces is the shortage of teachers. We need updated text books, supplemental materials and technology. We also need to invest in maintenance and up keep of the school facilities.</p>

<p>In terms of education issues, what sets you apart from the candidate(s) running against you?</p>	<p>One issue that sets me apart from a candidate running is that I do not own four charter schools and profit from these schools. I am not running to serve my own interests. I will vote No on proposition 305. It is no secret that the end game is to dismantle the public school system. I will always advocate on behalf of our public schools including our community colleges and state universities. I will vote yes on #InvestinEd.</p>
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LD 16 House Race

No survey response from John Fillmore (R), Lisa Godzich (R), and Kelly Townsend (R)

	<p>Sharon Stinard (D)</p>	<p>Stephen Kridler (R)</p>	<p>Tara Phelps (R)</p>
<p>What experiences in your background have prepared you to address Arizona's education challenges as a legislator?</p>	<p>I have a BA in business, a MA in counseling and have spent 42 years as an educator in K-12 and community college systems. I have spent 20 years in Arizona preparing students to become productive citizens. I have also spent the last 28 years as a community builder devoting many hours to serving on boards and committees in a variety of civic and service organizations. Through all these experiences I am known for my ability to listen to different points of view and my ability to bring people together to achieve a common goal.</p>	<p>As a police officer, I listened to any number of problems, then negotiated resolutions once I had learned pertinent information. As a former School Resource Officer, I had a taste of a number issues that concern Arizona Education today. As a police association president, I represented police employees and negotiated many issues important to police officers, and as a police sergeant, I was involved in the process of writing or rewriting policies and procedures, impacting not only police, but beneficial to all city employees.</p>	<p>I am an East Valley native and lifelong resident. I attended Gilbert Public Schools and graduated from Highland High School, and then Arizona State University, earning my degree in Business – Supply Chain Management with minors in French and Psychology. I have worked in large businesses, as well as currently owning my own business. I have 5 children currently attending Gilbert Public Schools and I live with the decisions of the Legislature every day. With my business background and my logistical degree, I'll be able to apply my skills and my logical, pragmatic approach to education issues and all other issues the state will face over the coming years.</p>
<p>What is your plan to ensure that public education in Arizona has an adequate and sustainable source of funding?</p>	<p>I would support a moratorium on tax cuts, close tax loopholes and restructure corporate tax credits. I would reach out to Arizonans who have responded to polls that they are willing to pay a little more in taxes to benefit our public education system. We need a state education budget that doesn't depend on increasing tax revenue that is subject to economic fluctuation. Education must be a firm budget line item.</p>	<p>State Trust Land, per Arizona Constitution, is supposed to be utilized to fund education issues. That source of income seems to be lacking and needs to be addressed to fall within constitutional guidelines. I'd also like to readdress the funding mechanism from state lottery dollars, which was supposed to have dollars designated for education purposes.</p>	<p>All students in Arizona deserve funding for a free education as dictated by the Arizona Constitution. The funding formula in Arizona is outdated, and legislation and ballot propositions are band-aids to a system that no longer functions the way it was originally intended. Receiving input from stakeholders and revising the system currently in place is the first step to providing adequate and sustainable sources of funding.</p>

<p>Do you think all education dollars should be subject to the same level of transparency and oversight, whether they go to district or charter schools?</p>	<p>The Arizona tax payer deserves to know that there is equal oversight over the allocation of their tax dollars. Fairness requires a level playing field when there are too few dollars to support the public education system that educates over 80% of Arizona's children.</p>	<p>Yes, Transparency and oversight are important when using a public funding source. This enables taxpayers to make learn whether or not there is sound stewardship of that state funding.</p>	<p>I think we owe it to taxpayers to provide transparency, accountability, and oversight for all tax dollars. You can have one or two of those, but all three are needed to provide true fiscal responsibility and to reduce government spending waste and misuse.</p>
<p>What is your opinion of the current ESA/voucher system? Do you support expanding the program beyond its current limits? Please explain.</p>	<p>I believe ESA's are not an appropriate use of public tax dollars. The legislature needs to revisit the voucher system to determine if it should be eliminated.</p>	<p>I support the ESA system currently in place, but I still believe greater oversight is needed. After reading the expansion proposal, I believe that a limited test program should be implemented to work out any problem issues or to determine if the proposed program is even a viable option. This would reduce the financial impact, rather than a blanket implementation across the state.</p>	<p>I do not support expanding ESA vouchers beyond its current limits.</p>
<p>Did you support the override and bond for Gilbert Public Schools in 2015? Please explain.</p>	<p>I live in the Mesa School District. Over the years I have knocked on many doors in support of overrides in my own school districts.</p>	<p>I did not live in Gilbert School District In 2015. I did read about the Bond proposal though. Any tax increase proposal I have difficulty approving.</p>	<p>I supported the bond and override and walked neighborhoods and walked on doors to encourage "yes" votes.</p>
<p>What are your plans for alleviating the severe teacher shortage in Arizona?</p>	<p>I would support increasing resources for the current university Teacher's Academy to provide screened applicants with up to 4 years of free education that includes a commitment to teaching in Arizona for a designated number of years. New teachers need support and mentoring during their early years to hone their skills, build their sense of professionalism and stay in the classroom. I will advocate for resources to support new and existing mentoring programs. I will support restoring education funding to 2008 levels so that districts can attract new teachers, retain teachers who are currently in the classroom or attract teachers back to the classroom. Class sizes must be reduced to appropriate levels so that teachers can find success in delivering content and meeting their student's needs.</p>	<p>At one time, police departments used recruiting programs allowing for down payment assistance when purchasing homes within their respective jurisdictions. Incentive programs along those same lines could be implemented to attract teachers. As I recall, the police incentive programs were successful in recruiting new officers to fill vacancies.</p>	<p>Several entities have an influence on the teacher shortage in Arizona, and can have an influence in alleviating that shortage. The Board of Regents, state universities, school districts and charter schools, and the Legislature/Governor have the means of impacting the teacher shortage. We need to work together to create means and provide resources to bring certified teachers into the workforce which may include loan repayments and other types of incentives, especially for certain geographical areas or subject matters that are struggling the most.</p>
<p>Do you think</p>	<p>Yes. The legislators and the governor required</p>	<p>It was good in that it brought discussion to the</p>	<p>I don't support the #RedforEd movement, but I</p>

<p>#RedforEd has been good for our state? Please explain.</p>	<p>a “wake up” call that current policies and insufficient state funding are undermining our public education system and diminishing the economic opportunity for our young people. They need to hear that starving our schools to support the charter school experiment without any checks and balances is no longer acceptable to the Arizona tax payer.</p>	<p>forefront. As I have been speaking with many constituents, support for RedforEd was strong up to the point of the walkout. People are still talking about education funding, so the issue remains front and center, but some relationship building may need to be done to regain that strong support.</p>	<p>believe that the events over the past 6 months have brought more awareness to the people of Arizona. People have started paying attention to how their Legislators are voting, how their Legislators are behaving, and how their Legislators are representing them. I believe that increased awareness can only benefit all of us as citizens and constituents. Ultimately, I support our students getting what they need.</p>
<p>Besides funding, what do you believe to be the most pressing educational challenge our state faces, and how you would address it?</p>	<p>I believe that the expense of post high school education and the debt our students must incur to be ready for 21st century jobs is a pressing challenge. Arizona needs an educated workforce to attract and expand businesses that will grow our economy. Funding needs to be restored to our state universities and community colleges with a requirement to lower tuition. Student loans need to be available at a much lower interest rate.</p>	<p>Arizona is still at the bottom of the national ranking. Is the funding issue the sole reason for that? Or are there other issues that contribute to the problem. My belief is that Arizona is in need of a restructuring of the Education system, with a vision projecting 20+ years and mechanisms to reassess efficiency on a regular basis to insure that the system remains on track.</p>	<p>Almost every educational challenge can be traced back to funding. So although it relates to funding, I would say the safety of Arizona’s children is paramount and we need to provide those resources for SROs and counselors on campus to serve and protect our students.</p>
<p>In terms of education issues, what sets you apart from the candidate(s) running against you?</p>	<p>I am the only candidate for the AZ House of Representatives in LD16 who has been an educator at the Junior High, Senior High and Community College level.</p>	<p>I’m willing to listen to and assess issues from all directions. I’m able to look at information from a practical viewpoint and make decisions as to what best serves the public. I have a proven track record as a police officer doing just that, representing and working to assist citizens in their times of difficulty. My time working within a school district gives me an insight that the other candidates just don’t have.</p>	<p>I am not a career politician. I am a community member, mother, wife, and concerned citizen who saw an opportunity, NOT for political power, but an opportunity to make a difference for my community, my district, and the state I love. I am here to be open, listen, and dialog respectfully. I am here to represent the people in this district, not special interests and not my own personal agenda. I am the only Republican Clean Elections candidate, which means that I cannot expect funds from PACs or businesses.</p>

LD 16 Senate Race

No survey response from David Farnsworth (R)

	<p>Benjamin Carmitchel (D)</p>	<p>Mike Hernandez (R)</p>
<p>What experiences in your background have prepared you to address Arizona's</p>	<p>Both of my parents were public school educators, and while I make my living through my businesses, I’ve taught as a substitute teacher in Arizona schools. I’m passionate about high-quality</p>	<p>The biggest thing I think we are lacking at the State Capitol is leaders who can relate to families who struggle to make ends meet. I’ve been there; I know what it’s like to be homeless and to</p>

<p>education challenges as a legislator?</p>	<p>public education. I've seen it work — and I've seen it fail.</p>	<p>not know where my next meal is coming from. My life experiences have given me a greater appreciation for the power of education and the opportunities it can create.</p>
<p>What is your plan to ensure that public education in Arizona has an adequate and sustainable source of funding?</p>	<p>Much of Arizona schools' funding comes from the general fund, allocated by lawmakers who have strong incentives to use that money elsewhere. That's part of the reason we're paying teachers less and letting our public schools crumble into disrepair. We don't need to raise taxes to invest in our future. By putting permanent revenue allocations in place, we can make sure that our money supports public education. We can ensure that we don't have to have this same fight over and over again — we can permanently improve our public schools and give our children the education they deserve.</p> <p>I've learned that, by far, the main problem with our public school system was the introduction of publicly funded charter and private schools. This happened in the late 1990's, when Arizona's public school system was ranked 19th in the nation. Simply put, private charters and private schools divert money from our public-school system. Since the introduction of public money flowing to private schools, more and more tax dollars have to be diverted. The only way for Public schools to thrive is by relying on local tax referendums. I plan to reverse this downward spiral by completely eliminating public funding to private schools (through vouchers) and strong oversight and regulation of privately owned charter schools.</p>	<p>First, we need to make sure that our public education system is acting as efficient as possible. Looking at ways to save dollars, like consolidating districts and increasing transparency of charter schools, should be where we start. After that, we can look at modernizing the school funding formula and then at long-term ways to increase funding.</p>
<p>Do you think all education dollars should be subject to the same level of transparency and oversight, whether they go to district or charter schools?</p>	<p>Absolutely, yes. I'm against prop 305 and vouchers entirely. Firm Charter school reform must take place.</p>	<p>Yes. I like that charters have a bit of autonomy when it comes to creating a curriculum that works for them, but if they take taxpayer dollars they should be held to the same standards.</p>
<p>What is your opinion of the current ESA/voucher system? Do you support expanding the program beyond its current limits? Please explain.</p>	<p>School vouchers divert money from public schools. The entire idea is unconstitutional and we must put an end to ESA's altogether.</p>	<p>Our focus should really be on fixing the public education system, not giving any student extra help to go to a private school. I don't mind ESA's that help children with special needs, but they aren't meant for everyone.</p>

Did you support the override and bond for Gilbert Public Schools in 2015? Please explain.	I live in Apache Junction, so I have no knowledge of this override.	?
What are your plans for alleviating the severe teacher shortage in Arizona?	Partly by closing Charter schools that are breaking the law. We're going to have to properly fund school districts so that our public schools are again an attractive workplace.	I'm a free-market guy, so I think that when school districts have the funds to offer a competitive wage they are more likely to retain and attract teachers. Following through on the Governor's plan to help college students wanting to become teachers graduate debt-free would be another great start.
Do you think #RedforEd has been good for our state? Please explain.	Yes and it was absolutely necessary to begin this great movement towards better public education.	I think where RedForEd started was incredibly inspiring and to see so many teachers come together to voice their frustrations was a historic moment for our state. But I do have some concerns about what seems to be ideologically driven leadership members of the movement. I'm fully opposed to the Invest in Ed initiative, and I think partisan acts like that hurt the movement.
Besides funding, what do you believe to be the most pressing educational challenge our state faces, and how you would address it?	We need to ensure that public schools across the state receive adequate funding to ensure that every child has an equal educational opportunity.	I believe we have a serious mental health crisis in our country and it is beginning in our schools. We don't have enough counselors or trained professionals to deal with the amount of students who show signs of mental health issues, which can lead to tragic consequences. Improving teacher pay is important, but investing in counselors could save lives.
In terms of education issues, what sets you apart from the candidate(s) running against you?	David Farnsworth, my opponent, is a strong advocate of vouchers and disagrees with every position I've taken regarding public education.	At every opportunity and every vote presented to my opponent, he's voted against education. I believe I would be a great State Senator for education and at the very least be open to ideas and new perspectives that may lead to a solution. But for education specifically, honestly, my opponent has been about as adversarial as you can be. We all deserve better.

LD 17 House Race

No survey responses from Nora Ellen (R), Jeff Weninger (R), or Julie Willoughby (R)

	Jennifer Pawlik (D)
What experiences in your background have	I have taught in Arizona's elementary schools for 17 years, and I have taught higher education for six years.

<p>prepared you to address Arizona's education challenges as a legislator?</p>	<p>During that time, I had the opportunity to serve in various leadership roles. I have attended candidate training provided by Emerge Arizona and Leading for Change. I am a Flinn-Brown Fellow.</p>
<p>What is your plan to ensure that public education in Arizona has an adequate and sustainable source of funding?</p>	<p>There is nothing simple about this question. Likewise, I do not believe there is only one possible answer. I am in support of #InvestinEd. The legislature has cut taxes 27 of the last 28 years to the point where there is not enough revenue in the General Fund to pay for necessary programs. The lack of revenue needs to be addressed. Tax loopholes, cuts, and credits should be analyzed and perhaps some less popular (or unused) should be retired. The expansion of vouchers should be stopped.</p>
<p>Do you think all education dollars should be subject to the same level of transparency and oversight, whether they go to district or charter schools?</p>	<p>Yes, both entities should be held to the same, high level of transparency and oversight. When attempting to level the playing field between district and charter schools, it is important to set the standard at the higher bar. (ie. Charters were not required to hire certified teachers; now district schools may hire uncertified teachers-the bar has been lowered.) Procurement procedures should be the same for both district and charter schools. Charters should not be allowed to own the buildings they build/use. Family members of charter owners should not profit from the publicly-funded systems.</p>
<p>What is your opinion of the current ESA/voucher system? Do you support expanding the program beyond its current limits? Please explain.</p>	<p>I am strongly opposed to using public funds to subsidize private or parochial school tuition. The only exception I have to this is vouchers for special needs students. If a disabled student's needs cannot be met in the public setting, then it is okay for public monies to cover the expense of their education. I am opposed to the expansion of the vouchers. This only pulls more money away from the public schools. If parents choose to send their child to private schools, that is their decision, but they should pay the tuition.</p>
<p>Did you support the override and bond for Gilbert Public Schools in 2015? Please explain.</p>	<p>I live in the Chandler Unified School District attendance area, so I did not have the opportunity to vote for the override and bond in Gilbert. However, I was on the speaking committee for the bond in CUSD in 2015, and I was the Co-Chair of the CUSD override committee in 2017. I strongly support funding for our public schools. It would be great if the state legislature properly funded our schools so that bonds and overrides would not be necessary, but until that time, I support school bonds and overrides.</p>
<p>What are your plans for alleviating the severe teacher shortage in Arizona?</p>	<p>There are so many ideas that would help alleviate the teacher shortage, but quite frankly they shouldn't be mandated by the legislature. (Yes, the funding will still come from the legislature.) New teachers should participate in a strong mentoring program that would provide the additional support they require during their first years teaching. Class sizes must be manageable, so teachers can provide the individual attention that diverse learners need. I do believe that teachers should be certified-but they should not have to complete highly qualified paperwork each year. Teachers need to be paid salaries that are commensurate to their years of experience and their education levels. Teachers need to feel supported by their administration, and they deserve to be respected. It would be great if more counselors could be added to the staff to help with social emotional needs of the students. Outside of contract expectations should be reduced (or teachers should be paid for working outside of their contract hours.)</p>
<p>Do you think #RedforEd has been good for our state? Please explain.</p>	<p>Yes, #RedforED has been good for our state. At the very least, engagement among teachers and parents has increased. People who have never voted and those who have voted along party lines are becoming informed, critically-thinking constituents. People who didn't know what their legislative district was and didn't know who</p>

	<p>their elected officials were now have very strong opinions after witnessing the final days of the legislative session.</p>
<p>Besides funding, what do you believe to be the most pressing educational challenge our state faces, and how you would address it?</p>	<p>Although I believe it is related to the lack of funding, the most pressing educational challenge is the lack of preparation for life after high school. Students have been in large classes with outdated curriculum for over a decade. It is no surprise that many are unprepared for challenges that face them post-high school. There is a shortage of qualified people to fill certified, skilled-labor jobs. Students who attend community college or university often do not have strong language/writing and/or math skills to register for on-level courses. They take remedial courses, and they struggle to complete their degrees in four years. Achieve 60 is a statewide program that works to increase the number of working-age adults with certificates or degrees to 60% by the year 2030. I support the efforts of the organization, but believe we must start even earlier in our students' lives. As strange as it sounds, it is important to begin funding quality pre-school and full-day kindergarten. Within my fellowship with Flinn-Brown, my group studied the impact of funding pre-kindergarten programs. Benefits include a reduced need for second language classes, special education, and remediation classes; students are more apt to read on-level by third grade. They have higher graduation rates, and many will enroll in college. Incarceration rates are significantly lower for those who've attended a quality pre-k program. By proactively addressing the needs of the youngest learners, we will positively impact later educational outcomes.</p>
<p>In terms of education issues, what sets you apart from the candidate(s) running against you?</p>	<p>As a lifelong educator, I am devoted to supporting public schools and teachers. In 2017, I served as the Co-Chair of the CUSD Override committee, and I am strongly in favor of funding district school programs including full-day kindergarten and gifted education. Rep. Weninger and Councilmember Ellen did not publicly support or endorse the override. Ms. Willoughby touts the importance of school choice. There are so many choices in education (within traditional districts) that do not involve expanding vouchers that subsidize private and parochial tuition.</p>

No candidates responded to the survey in these races:

- LD 17 Senate
- LD 25 House
- LD 25 Senate