

PRIORITIZING ARIZONA'S MIDDLE CLASS

ARIZONA'S ECONOMY

Where AZ stands after 10 years of out-of-whack policies:

- Poverty rate among the highest in the nation
- Lowest economic growth rate of all Western states
- At or near bottom in pay for teachers and construction workers
- Lowest rate in the nation for small business ownership
- Among the highest 25% of states in sales tax
- Nearly the nation's lowest corporate income tax
- Annual corporate sales tax loopholes totaling nearly \$13 Billion

=====

"WHEN WE ALL DO BETTER, WE ALL DO BETTER"

(Paul Wellstone)

This quote from former Minnesota U.S. Senator, Paul Wellstone, illustrates that when the middle class is thriving, the entire economy enjoys the benefits. When working families have money to spend, businesses profit and hire more workers and those workers spend and ... I'm sure you get the idea. As the "snapshot" above makes very clear, Arizona's economy is actually hurting the middle class.

=====

The current policies of our state government have created an artificial perpetuation of the Great Recession of 2008. By manipulating taxes and investments, they have us locked in an economy that is not working for the middle class.

Here is the Atchue for Senate plan of action:

1. **TAX POLICY:**

- We are literally sending hundreds of millions of dollars out of our state via corporate income tax cuts. Our current state government has made a commitment to these ideologically driven giveaways every year without any regard to return on investment. **My plan puts a halt to these income tax cuts until a complete, independent and transparent audit determines their benefit to Arizona. We will identify money invested out of state and bring it back home where it belongs! The potential savings is \$500 - \$600 Million per year!**
- Our state government has created a sales tax loophole monstrosity that has grown to nearly \$13 Billion per year. Our one party controlled legislature and governor has blocked any audit of these loopholes. **My plan calls for a rotating audit ensuring each and every sales tax loophole gets scrutiny every 5 years. Estimates are that the state will be able to add from \$1.5 - \$2 Billion per year in revenue by eliminating fiscally wasteful practices.**

- The current state government has been balancing the budget by abdicating its responsibility to fund counties, cities as well as school districts. In order to pay for roads, first responders and public school needs, Arizona has seen an explosion in the sales tax rate that is now in the top 25% in the entire nation - even states such as Illinois have a lower sales tax rate. If this trend in fiscal irresponsibility is allowed to continue unabated, middle class families and small businesses across the state will be crushed. **My plan to increase state revenues will result in fiscal policies that will no longer pressure increases in sales tax. I will fight to lower sales tax rates across the state - a real boon for the middle class and small businesses. I will sponsor and support legislation that ensures Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) are fairly distributed among the state's counties which is not currently the case.**
- Arizona is currently directing public tax money to private schools while continuing to underfund our Public Education system which serves 85% of our students. The 2017 legislative session passed a bill, signed by the governor, that would expand education vouchers (ESA) to include every student in the state. Tuition tax credits and vouchers for private schools are not in the best interest of our middle class families. Few can afford the additional costs required to take advantage of the program. **My plan is to limit education vouchers to their original intent - providing assistance to families with special needs children. Additionally, I call for a complete audit focusing on the ethics, transparency and accountability of tuition tax credits. My position will always be to protect the use of public tax money in the best interest of all tax payers.**

2. INVESTMENT POLICY:

- Public Education is the primary driver of middle class prosperity and opportunity. Arizona's current governor and one party dominated legislature has taken a fiscal wrecking ball to facilities, classroom materials and technology and caused a nearly 4000 teacher shortages across the state. **My plan acknowledges the absolute need to fully fund Public Education from K-12 through state Universities, Community Colleges and JTED (Trade Schools). By immediately investing an additional \$1.5 -\$2 Billion per year in our school buildings, busses, class rooms and teachers' pay, our middle class families will begin to find economic opportunity once again available. Businesses will be able to once again see Arizona as a state that encourages a well trained and motivated workforce. (Be sure to visit the Public Education tab on this website)**
- The U.S. Core of Engineers gives Arizona a D- grade for infrastructure - honestly not many states are much better. Our state government is not fully partnering with counties and cities in providing funding for needed repair work, let alone investing in the projects of the future. **My plan calls for a state commitment to begin expansion of funding for all currently needed projects, as well as those on the horizon. This is a plan that creates quality jobs which will fuel sustainable economic growth for the middle class.**
- Arizona is not taking advantage of opportunities to invest in the economy driving technologies of the future. Our leaders are creating a "for-profit" environment for the state's

energy monopolies at the expense of consumers. **My plan creates a legislative directive to invite state and private investment in, not only “clean” technologies, but the innovative ideas not yet fully formulated. I believe Arizona can be the nation’s leader in attracting the industries of tomorrow creating the quality jobs of today!**

3. HEALTH CARE:

Arizona families are rightfully confused and concerned about the costs and coverage of health insurance in the future. GOP legislators at both Federal and State levels seen committed to increasing costs, limiting coverage and kicking many vulnerable Arizonans off of insurance. **My plan is to sponsor and support legislation to decrease costs, increase coverage options and increase the number of people covered by health insurance.**

4. WORKERS RIGHTS:

The right of Arizona workers to legally organize and bargain collectively with employers has been systematically reduced. **My plan recognizes that our economy works best when businesses, government and workers collaborate. I will always support every worker’s right to organize with other workers to have a voice in their workplace.**

Arizona’s middle class families need and deserve an economy that works for them. Our state’s small businesses need government to be a partner in helping them be prosperous and create quality jobs. Arizona needs new leadership with bold and comprehensive plans to get our economy on the right track. The Atchue for Senate plan does just that!

Let us know what you think!