

REBUILDING ARIZONA'S MIDDLE CLASS

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

TWO FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS:

1. It is becoming increasingly apparent that environmental issues are being widely recognized in importance to most Arizonans.
2. It is becoming increasingly apparent that environmental issues are being mismanaged by Arizona's state government.

Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast looking for unspoiled natural beauty, or a committed environmentalist frightened about our planet's future, it's time to pay close attention to our environment. Our current state government, controlled exclusively by the GOP, is putting our state's natural resources at risk in favor of profits for a few. Our governor and state legislature are failing to enact policies that will protect what we have now and properly plan for future generations of Arizonans.

PUBLIC LANDS:

According to the non-profit Center for Western Priorities, Arizona ranks 7th among the 8 Western States in management of public lands. This evaluation includes wildlife conservation, energy development and water resources.

My plan calls for an immediate open hearing inviting all environmental stake holders, including hunters, anglers, hikers and bikers. These hearings must place an emphasis on scientifically related studies over profit driven lobbyists. My goal is for Arizona to move to #1 in terms of resource management. I will sponsor and support legislation aimed at placing protection of Arizona's environment as a priority.

RENEWABLE ENERGY:

The Center for Western Priorities, as well as virtually anyone who is at all environmentally conscious, wonders why Arizona is not the nation's leading model for advancing renewable energy technology. The answer is found in the unbridled power of the fossil fuel industry over Arizona's elected officials. Either by virtue of direct campaign contributions, or behind the scenes "dark money" expenditures, legislative scrutiny and votes seem to be bought and paid for. Even the state's Corporation Commission makes headlines for seemingly unethical decisions regarding regulation of utility companies.

My plan begins with a thorough and transparent investigation into the allegations of unethical relationships between the state's public utilities and the Arizona Corporation Commission. Voters and taxpayers deserve an unbiased and independent Commission. Additionally, I will sponsor and support legislation that encourages public and private investment in renewable energy technology. I will sponsor and support legislation intended to move Arizona to the forefront of research, development and infrastructure implementation, leading the way to quality jobs to our state.

ARIZONA'S WATER RESOURCES:

Arizona has historically been the leader among the Western States regarding conservation of water resources. Over the preceding decades, Arizona has worked to ensure that the quantity and quality of ground water and Colorado River water is protected. All of that is now in serious jeopardy. The Arizona Department of Water Resources acknowledges that at least 15 proposed projects in Pinal County alone may not meet statutory requirements for water usage. Current water usage treaties and interstate compacts may be out dated. The Trump Administration has drastically weakened EPA enforcement regarding protection of clean and safe water supplies.

My plan sounds the alarm across Arizona that immediate and decisive action is needed to protect our state's water supply for near and long-term future:

- 1. Our state legislature must become pro-active in establishing scientifically updated water usage agreements with Mexico, Native American Nations and other Western States. These agreements will be based on newly developed scientifically established estimates of Colorado River levels in the future.**
- 2. The state legislature must work with counties and local municipalities to ensure no new development projects may begin until all questions regarding statutory water quantities are answered. Then, all newly approved projects must adhere to the statutory requirements. We must not allow individual developers to profit at the expense of everyone else.**
- 3. Since we can no longer depend on the Federal government to protect the safety of our water supply, the state legislature must take over that responsibility. I will sponsor and support legislation that strictly prohibits any and all development or industrial action that puts the quality of our water supplies at risk. This includes potential pollutants impacting our water, land or air. It also includes my plans for renewable energy technologies outlined above.**

ARIZONA'S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS:

As Arizona deals with the infrastructure needs of a growing population and increased intrastate commercial needs, the demand for new roads will put pressure on our already fragile environment.

My plan includes improvements and increased capacity on existing roads. Not only should we consider the esthetic impact of new projects through our desert landscapes, but by adding additional asphalt and concrete ground cover we exacerbate the potential for flooding. I support consideration of ideas such as "piggy back" vertical expansion of I-10 through high traffic areas rather than building a new I-11 through our state. I also believe we should consider upgrading our current rail system to include high speed commuter service between Tucson and Phoenix - perhaps eventually connecting with Las Vegas.

Today, more than ever, we need to be aware and vigilant regarding our environment. Arizona's open spaces, our clean air and water are gifts that we must protect for generations to come. The actions we take must be based on sound scientific evidence and trustworthy experience, not on short sighted profit and political expediency. As stewards of our state, we have got to take this responsibility seriously.

Let me know what you think!