



Legislator Education Survey 2010

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1 **In an effort to balance our state budget, legislators have recently reduced Arizona’s K-12 and university/community school budgets by more than \$2 billion during the past two years. During this next session, legislators still need to address the structural budget deficit that remains. Which of the following best describes your approach to balancing the budget?**

Answer
Enact further cuts to K-12 and higher education funding as they make up a large share of the overall budget.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stabilize funding to education at existing levels until our economy recovers.
Find ways to recover the \$2.2 billion that was cut. Examine how state revenues are spent and whether the state collects enough revenue to meet its needs.

Comment: A commitment to quality education begins with looking at how many dollars are actually spent in the classroom. Administrative costs and ancillary departments must be cut first. I would also like to look at funding each school as it's own entity and or do away with all the Unification's (thus more administrative salaries) and propose county school districts. For example Maricopa Unified rather than Higley, Gilbert, Kyrene, Tempe, Phoenix.)

2 **Do you support efforts to readdress Arizona’s tax structure to alleviate the reliance on fluctuating sales tax?**

Answer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No

Comment: The mentality of shoot first ,aim later must end. It has never worked and never will.

3 **Arizona’s current budget was devised using a series of cuts, borrowing, financial deferrals and the voter-approved temporary sales tax increase. Which of the following fiscal measures would you consider supporting this year? (Please check all that apply.)**

Answer
<input type="checkbox"/> An effort to close existing tax loopholes
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase personal income tax
<input type="checkbox"/> Enact a flat tax on corporate/individual income
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase property tax

Eliminate tax credits (please specify)
Expand the sales tax to services
End tax exempt status for mining, etc.
Simplify the state tax code
Corporate tax cuts
Ensure corporate tax parity (large companies to pay same share as small businesses; tax exemption via out-of-state holding companies prohibited, etc.)
I think the only effective budget solution would be to introduce further tax cuts.
I think our current tax structure is adequate and we just need to wait until the economy rebounds.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Comment: The size of Government can not exceed the population. A complete restructuring of the tax code is necessary. Current policy has failed and will continue to do so until we look long and hard at how the current taxes we receive is legislated and how regulations have further complicated the budget

4 **A number of national surveys rank Arizona among the last in K-12 per-pupil funding. Arizona invests \$61 less per student than it did more than 20 years ago, according to the American Legislative Exchange Council. What do you think of this level of investment?**

Answer
Arizona spends too much on K-12 education. We need to enact further cuts.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an adequate level of investment. I do not think we need to invest more in K-12 funding.
Although I do not think this funding is adequate, I do not think we can increase funding for K-12 education at this time.
It is embarrassing to be among the last in the nation in K-12 education funding. As a legislator, I will work this fiscal year (2010-2011) to increase funding for K-12 public schools.

Comment: We must end the idea of a per student model and start to look at how we can get more out of that dollar. I can spend 200\$ on my groceries and not shop sales or I can bargain shop, look at my groceries list as a whole and still meet my requirements. How about tougher standards to justify giving more money? The solutions lie with everybody doing their part not just in more funding.

5 **Each year, more than \$60 million in Arizona taxpayer dollars are directed to School Tuition Organizations (STOs) for private school tuition through the tax credit program. What do you think about the current private school tax credit program? (Please check all that apply.)**

Answer
More tax dollars should be allocated to expand the private school tuition program.
The private school tuition program should be maintained as-is.
The amount of tax dollars allocated to the private school tuition tax credit program should be reduced.
The private school tax credit program should be repealed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The 10% processing fee that STOs are allowed to keep from donations for expenses should be reduced to a lower percentage. (Processing fees in Florida are capped at 3%.)
There should be income limits on the families who benefit from the private school tax credit program. The original intent of the program was to provide access to private schools for poor children.
I think any Arizona family should be able to take advantage of the tax-funded tuition benefits.
I don't believe we should be using tax dollars for private school tuition assistance.

6 Do you believe reform is needed in our public education system? If so, which reforms do you support? (Please check all that apply.)

Answer
<input type="checkbox"/> No, reform is not needed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, reform is needed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, reform is needed but we need to establish adequate funding first.
<input type="checkbox"/> I support the participation in a national standards program, i.e. NAEP.
<input type="checkbox"/> I support increased charter school funding.
<input type="checkbox"/> I support more teacher accountability.
<input type="checkbox"/> I support the Common Core Standards created by the National Governors' Association and the state superintendents of education.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I support linking teacher pay to student test scores.
<input type="checkbox"/> I support moving quickly to shut down failing schools.
<input type="checkbox"/> I support creating more charter schools.
<input type="checkbox"/> I support restructuring the "equalized funding" formula

Comment: I support teachers receiving pay based on performance not number of years only. I also cutting administrators whose pay is triple that of a teachers before cutting teachers.

7 Some argue that we should move away from traditional public schools and transition to a system with more students attending state funded, privately-run charter schools and private schools with the aid of tax credits and/or vouchers. Do you support this plan?

Answer
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comment: We as Legislators should support what our constituency that voted us in to REPRESENT them wants. I do believe in more choice though but that does not exclude public education, it encourages it.

8 This year, legislators referred to voters a ballot measure to repeal First Things First, an early childhood education program with a dedicated funding source approved by voters in 2006. What do you support?

Answer
<input type="checkbox"/> First Things First funding should be repealed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Things First funding should be maintained in accordance with the original voter mandate.

Comment: BUT only until it is again voted on. Many things pop back up on the ballot. Times change and so we must re-examine them. It is fair to ask voters to rethink it.

9 **Arizona currently has some of the largest K-12 classroom sizes in the nation. Please check the statements you agree with below. (Please check all that apply.)**

Answer
Classroom size isn't a crucial factor for student success--many other factors are much more important and we should focus our priorities elsewhere.
I think it would be more efficient if we increased classroom size along with teacher pay. This would attract better teachers and decrease the cost of running the school.
I think classroom size is an important factor for student success, but I don't think we can currently afford to increase funding to pay for the additional teachers and/or school facilities.
Classroom size is one of the most important factors for student success--we should be working to reduce class size as one of our top priorities.
If parents believe that classroom size is important for their child, they should consider enrolling their children in a private school with a classroom enrollment cap.

Comment: I am not a teacher and can not comment until I speak with more teachers about how classroom size affects students. In my child's school, teachers always said classroom size was offset by parent volunteers and amount of parental involvement in the education process.

10 **Arizona has one of the highest high school drop-out rates in the country. In the last budget, all state aid for adult GED (General Education Diploma) funding was eliminated. Please check the statement you agree with below.**

Answer
GEDs should be funded by individuals.
The state should provide funding for GED programs.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I will work to restore funding for adult GED services.

Comment: I believe interventions before kid's drop-out is a much needed change. Finding solutions to GED programs can be found in the private sector. I will work to restore GED services through the private sector and volunteer organizations

11 **The Arizona Constitution has many sections impacting the state budget and education. If elected, which of the following articles do you most identify with? (Please check all that apply.)**

Answer
The legislature shall provide by law for an annual tax sufficient, with other sources of revenue, to defray the necessary ordinary expenses of the state for each fiscal year. (Article IX, Section 3)
No tax shall be laid or appropriation of public money made in aid of any church, or private or sectarian school, or any public service corporation. (Article IX, Section 10)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The university and all other state educational institutions shall be open to students of both sexes, and the instruction shall be nearly as free as possible. (Article XI, Section 6: paragraph one)
The legislature shall make appropriations, to be met by taxation, as shall insure the proper maintenance of all state educational institutions & shall make such special appropriations as shall provide for their development & improvement. (Article XI, Sec10)

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If you have children, what type of school(s) did they/do they attend? (Please check all that apply.)

Answer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traditional Public School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charter School
<input type="checkbox"/> Private School
<input type="checkbox"/> Home School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University/Community College/Higher Education
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A I have no children.

Comment: I have a son who dropped out at 16. He took his GED with out studying and is now in his 3rd semester at MCC and hopes to transfer to ASU next fall. He attended both public and charter schools previously. Traditional schools did not seem to meet his needs.
 My daughter has attended public school at the same school for 6 years and starts 7th grade in the same district. Moving schools seems to be the key to me. My son was moved several times and failed traditionally while my daughter has been in