



Legislator Education Survey 2010

Response for: toddcamenisch@yahoo.com

Completed: 6/28/2010 - 10:39 PM EDT

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	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enact further cuts to K-12 and higher education funding as they make up a large share of the overall budget.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stabilize funding to education at existing levels until our economy recovers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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: I firmly believe we need to follow the Arizona Constitution especially Article XI, section X. This states that the Legislature shall make such appropriations, to be met by taxation, as shall insure the proper maintenance of all state educational institutions, and shall make such special appropriations as shall provide for their development and improvement.

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

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

Comment: I will work to restructure this and as a component of this process the school finance formula. For example, we should have a better strategy and plan for using State Trust Lands to support Public Schools.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An effort to close existing tax loopholes

The private school tax credit program should be repealed.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%.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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
No, reform is not needed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, reform is needed.
Yes, reform is needed but we need to establish adequate funding first.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I support the participation in a national standards program, i.e. NAEP.
I support increased charter school funding.
I support more teacher accountability.
<input checked="" 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.
I support moving quickly to shut down failing schools.
I support creating more charter schools.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I support restructuring the "equalized funding" formula

Comment: I do believe we need reform in public education but we need to preserve local governance. The Arizona Business Education Coalition and the National Center on Education and the Economy are two resources with data-driven suggestion to reform our education system. I will include such knowledge as I lead for positive improvements in how we educate and train all of our students.

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

Comment: NO. This will make the education gap much larger among many people in our community. One of our most patriotic identities and institutions are our public schools! These are the envy of the world and it is our economic imperative as well as our Patriotic duty to make sure they still are: our kids deserve nothing less.

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
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: The voter mandate should be respected and protected by the legislator. This FTF program is vital to all areas of Arizona and the data support the positive impact that it has on early childhood development and preparation to be the best students and ultimately citizens.

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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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: Walt Disney stated it well: "Crowded classrooms and half-day sessions are a tragic waste of our greatest National resource - the minds of our children." " We need to listen to this sage advice.

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: Adult education and training programs need to be supported. The elimination of these hurts the individuals and it also costs the State more in the long run.

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)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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)

12 **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
Charter School
Private School
Home School
University/Community College/Higher Education
N/A I have no children.

Comment: I also serve as a school board member for the Catalina Foothills School District, Tucson AZ.