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8 Questions for Candidates from AZ Green Chamber – 2020

The Arizona Green Chamber is a non-partisan organization that is working to improve Arizona's future by promoting sustainability-minded companies, products and services. We would like to gain a better understanding of your position on a variety of issues that affect our members and the state. Thank you in advance for providing your thoughts on the questions below by returning this questionnaire to info@azgreenchamber.org by July 5, 2020.

1. Issue: enterprises and citizens. What do you think are the best policies to inform and incentivize businesses and citizens to adopt energy upgrades, sustainable transportation, and other green infrastructure practices?

Bringing down the cost for the initial purchase, install, and/or connection. The least efficient way to do this is piece-meal, each on their own. The most efficient and quickest way to do this is for the entire State Government to put down their foot and state, "we are going there...." If that can be accomplished, the next best thing is to have entire counties or cities, say the same thing and create first the policy, law, planning ordinances etc. to get it done. Incentives can be designed to meet the challenge at the State or local level.

2. Issue: water. Development in Arizona is closely tied to long-term accessibility of water for industrial and residential use. Given the current strain on water resources due to a 20+ drought in the watershed that supplies the Central Arizona Project, what policies, strategies or incentives would you either pursue or support, if elected, to ensure our long-term water supply?

For the AZ Corporation Commission this is in a support and regulatory category of private water companies. There are many layers of Federal and State water regulations, responsibility and negotiations that need to be done before it comes into the commission's area. What may be worth investigation at the AZCC is there a way to encourage water conservation measures by individual business that are registered with the AZCC. Is there something to do within the fee structure of registering a business that make sense here?

3. Issue: renewable energy. If elected, what policies, strategies or incentives would you pursue or support to encourage the growth of renewable energy jobs? What policies, strategies or incentives would you pursue or support to encourage the use of renewable energy by citizens? Many companies, states and cities are declaring renewable energy goals – for example "100% renewable energy by 2030." What are your thoughts about establishing a similar goal?

To increase renewable energy jobs, we must adopt increased renewable energy policy at the AZCC. The Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter and a number of other groups have already put together steps and resources for the average resident for saving energy. In the realm of rebates and alike that needs to be done with the cooperation of the lawmakers of the State (use of tax incentives), as well as, the major energy companies (use of power credits). There is no use in reinventing the wheel, a better action is to get the wheel rolling in the renewable energy direction. There is a collaborative proposal, supported by a number of groups, submitted to the AZCC for roughly 50% renewable by 2030 and 100% by 2045. That's a good place to start.



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4. Issue: waste and recycling. A number of Arizona municipalities have had to limit, or even altogether abandon, recycling efforts due to the inability to find third party companies willing to handle and process recycled materials. If elected, what policies, strategies or incentives would you either pursue or support to address this situation?

This is a good place to start job creation in the entire State. For a recycling policy to fully work it needs the cooperation of AZCC the State legislature and local city and town governments. There are a number of energies creating enterprises, around the world that are using recycled materials to create energy, as well as, jobs. This is an area where partners in the community and at the leading research institutions/ universities can inform goals, policy, and implementation.

5. Issue: heat mitigation. Many of the most populated areas of the state have seen a steady rise in the last few decades of higher average temperatures during the summer months. If elected, what policies, strategies or incentives would you either pursue or support to mitigate the human and economic impacts of increasing heat?

Local Planning and Zoning have a huge impact on what happens with development and the way development happens. I know that from my time on the Cave Creek Town Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission. Ordinances and building codes are also vitally important, again a local and county issue. For us to be successful we need all governments from top to bottom moving in the same direction. An example is, in Cave Creek we reduced the use of asphalt, created building envelopes for each residential a lot to maintain native elements and open space. Zoned for more community open space and preservation, gave green building a break on permitting fees for both homes and businesses, reduced parking to encourage more walking and biking, as well as, preserved the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area eliminating development of hundreds of thousands of acres, saving the natural wilderness. Also, planting of native plants, especially trees go a long way collectively in creating a reduction in the heat.

6. Issue: carbon emissions and air pollution. A number of cities and states around the world are adopting "carbon neutrality" goals – setting a specific year goal by which operations will be carbon neutral. There are many ways to reach such a goal. If elected, would you support the establishment of a "carbon neutrality" goal? What policies, strategies or incentives would you pursue, support or incentivize to reduce carbon emissions and help clean the air?

Yes, I would support establishing carbon neutral goals. I would have to do my homework in this area to see what, if anything is in place, and if so, is it adequate. Here again it will take more than the AZCC creating policy to achieve measurable outcomes. It will take coordination on all levels.

7. Issue: resilient energy hubs. Some local governments in Arizona have adopted plans to address the human risks of rising temperatures. One idea is to create "resilience hubs" at fire stations, community centers, schools and churches that are outfitted with solar panels and battery storage. In the event of an emergency that compromises the electrical grid, these resilience hubs will ensure that first responders and evacuees have access to electricity and cooling. If elected, would you advocate, support or incentivize a similar concept?

Yes, this is an excellent idea and worth expansion.



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8. Issue: healthy food systems. Sustainable access to healthy, sustainable, abundant, sources of food have risen to be a critical issues for all levels of society. Solutions have included increased access to farmers markets, encouraging urban agriculture, reducing food waste, government coordination with local farmers, the creation of detailed food security plans, the dedication of personnel to improve access, and more. What is your point of view on the related issues of food security and reducing food waste?

I am a huge supporter of grow local, eat local. This expands into everything connected with shop local. I see the benefits to my family and health and I am willing to support small business the "bring it home" for us. Not sure about the role of the AZCC in all of this, but they do register every business in the State, foreign and domestic, so I imagine there is some encouragement there. It also returns to the planning and Zoning in communities, as well as local and state lawmakers to set the pace on moving their communities in a number of sustainable directions, ie, creating lots of open space for land preservation. It does not have to be huge to encourage and support entire neighborhoods to go solar and create community gardens, as well as, walking and biking paths.

Thank you all for your interest in coordinating with the AZCC for more livable and prosperous communities, as well as, your interest and support to elect candidates to the Commission that share your sustainable values. Shea Stanfield