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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](mailto: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?

There needs to be a multi-governmental approach. Both the state and federal government should restore and increase credits and deductions in their tax codes. The Corporation Commission can incentivize distributed generation and rooftop solar, with rebates and net metering, like we did when I was a Commissioner (1999-2008) and Chair of the Commission (2001 & 2002). Counties, cities, towns can enact zoning ordinances that encourage distributed generation, such as solar and wind.

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?

The Commission regulates approximately 300 water and wastewater companies. They provide most of the water and wastewater services in rural Arizona and on the outskirts of Maricopa County. When I was a Commissioner, the Commission encouraged conservation with tiered rates and limiting groundwater use by these companies in non-AMA areas of the state. We also denied fossil fuel power plants that would have used massive amounts of groundwater and instead encouraged the building of solar arrays and wind facilities. I will collaborate with all stakeholders to make sure we have clean and sustainable water for future generations.

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?

In 2001, when I was the Chair of the Commission, the all Republican Commission unanimously voted to require our utilities generate a percentage of their electricity from solar and other sources of energy. In 2006, I co-authored the current renewable energy requirement (REST



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Rules) that again was enacted by an all Republican Commission. As a result, Arizona became a leader in rooftop solar installations.

Commissioner Sandra Kennedy, the Chair of my Campaign, has introduced a renewable requirement not a goal, of 30% by 2028. They are called the KREST Rules. I support her proposal. APS has stated their goal is 100% “clean energy” by 2050 that includes nuclear energy. As mentioned above, when I was Commissioner, we enacted rebates and net metering to encourage the installation of rooftop solar. These policies helped bring good paying jobs throughout Arizona.

Additionally, the new Interconnection Rules need to be vigorously enforced by the Commission so that businesses, schools, universities, churches, homeowners and landlords who want to install rooftop solar are not delayed and obstructed in doing so.

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?

I served in the Arizona House of Representatives for six years. When I was the Chair of the House Environment Committee I wrote the state’s first recycling laws, A.R.S. 49-961 to 49-969. I was certainly disappointed to see that it is not being utilized to its fullest extent and its intended purpose.

The Commission doesn’t have jurisdiction or regulate Arizona municipalities. The Commission regulates private investor owned utilities. I would use the “Bully Pulpit” and work with the legislature and municipalities to help to solve the problem.

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?

The Commission can prohibit utility shutoffs in excessive heat. Most states prohibit shut off based on the time of the year and/or temperatures to prevent unnecessary deaths. I support a combination of the two. I support the Commission’s Emergency Rules that prohibit shutoffs from June 1 to October 15. I also supported Senate Bill 1542 that would have prohibited shutoffs by utilities, not regulated by the Commission, when temperatures are above 90 degrees.

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



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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?

I support a "carbon neutrality" goal. As indicated above, the Commission needs to dramatically increase the REST Rules. It also needs to renew and expand the Energy Efficiency Rules, which expire at the year of the year. I would also encourage the greater use of electric vehicles.

7. Issue: air quality. A multitude of studies have repeatedly demonstrated the adverse affects that poor air quality has on health, including the health of children. Which air quality policies and standards would you pursue to improve the health of your constituents?

When I was a Commissioner, we ordered that new fossil fuel power plants comply with non-attainment emission regulations even if they were located in attainment areas. That will be my policy when reviewing power plant applications. Additionally, we ordered that SRP provide funding for low emission school buses and banned the use of diesel oil to generate electricity.

8. 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, I support resilience hubs. As indicated above the REST Rules need to modernized and expanded. They need to include a specific requirement for distributed generation. Local governments need to modernize their zoning ordinances to allow for these hubs.

9. 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 support SB1245 and similar legislation whose purpose is to boost local economies and uplift local farmers while at the same time providing healthy locally grown produce to SNAP/EBT customers. The legislation was entitled the Arizona-Grown Fruit and Vegetable Incentive Bill and the program was commonly referred to as the Double Up Food Bucks Arizona Program.



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