

## 8 Questions for Candidates from AZ Green Chamber – 2020 (Anna Tovar)

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 September 18, 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?

*In Arizona, I think one of the best approaches we can take to encourage green infrastructure practices is through public education campaigns, public-private partnerships, and economic incentivization for incorporation of green technologies and practices. From both an environmental and economic perspective, the investment in green infrastructure makes sense and is key to the long-term success of our state. As an elected official, I will work to create innovative partnerships with the private and non-profit sectors to demonstrate the beneficial aspects of using of green infrastructure/technologies, and then develop programs to promote and incorporate the use of these technologies in sectors and communities across the state.*

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?

*Ensuring Arizona's long-term water sustainability should be a top priority for every elected official. The combined pressures of climate change, population growth (in Arizona and the Western United States), and shorter-term weather variations are increasingly putting a strain on our water supply. As an elected official, I would pursue a variety of strategies to work on securing our long-term water supply. First, Arizona should be promoting a proactive water conservation education campaign to the general public. This campaign should be focused on educating water users – residential, commercial, agricultural, etc. – on the measures they can take to use less water. Second, the state should partner with the private sector to ensure that public buildings have the best possible water efficiency technologies in place and all employees are educated on the best possible water saving practices. Finally, I would support policies that proactively address the major factors affecting our long-term water supply, i.e., climate change, through the continued expansion of carbon-free energy production.*

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?

*I am a strong supporter of renewable energy and will actively work to create policies that will lead Arizona to a 100% renewable energy portfolio. It makes both economic and environmental sense to pursue this goal. As an elected official, I will work with the public and private sectors to pursue realistic solutions to create a mix of grid and distributed generation based renewable energy and storage solutions that will sustainably meet our needs for the future. It will be one of my top priorities as a Corporation Commissioner.*

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?

*As a mayor and a current candidate for the Corporation Commission, I can't overstate how much I am troubled by the fact that local governments are having to stop or limit their recycling efforts. There is no easy answer to this situation, but I do believe that we must look for economically viable ways to continue recycling in communities across our state. Identifying innovative recycling/reuse technologies that could be used in cost-effective public-private partnerships should be a priority for our state.*

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?

*In most parts of the state, we have just experienced the hottest and driest summer in history, and the continued effects of urbanization and climate change can no longer be ignored. As a Corporation Commissioner, I fully support moving Arizona's energy production to a 100% renewable energy portfolio in the shortest, most realistic, timeline possible.*

*Additionally, the state should work with local governments, the private sector, and our universities to identify and implement heat mitigation technologies and efforts in urbanized and/or growing areas. If we are to maintain an attractive and sustainable quality of life in our communities, we must begin to mitigate the extreme temperatures that are continuing to be more and more common. This should be an all-hands-on-deck approach and should cut across partisan and ideological lines.*

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?

*I fully support a carbon neutrality goal, and would ideally like to see a Clean Energy Standard of net zero carbon emission by 2045. Furthermore, I would like to extend and expand our current Energy Efficiency Standards, as well as increase our Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff.*

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?

*As previously mentioned, I would like to implement standards that would bring Arizona to 100% renewable/clean energy. This is one of the biggest priorities when it comes to address air quality. I am also supportive of working with state agencies and local governments to identify localized air quality problems and finding solutions to those problems, either through technological solutions, policy changes, or a combination of both. Every Arizonan, regardless of their economic status or geographic location, deserves the right to breathe clean air.*

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?

*I am very supportive of the concept of “resilience hubs” as I think they can serve a dual purpose of addressing both local energy and quality of life issues, as well as play a fundamental role in creating a cleaner, more balanced energy portfolio to address more global issues.*

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 am supportive of all these approaches to address food security and reducing food waste, which also in turn creates more economic opportunity and less air pollution.*