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2016 Candidate Survey Results

Name: Denise "Mitzi" Epstein

Office Sought: Arizona House

District: 18

Status: Challenger

Party: Democratic

Website: me4az.com

Previous Public Office(s): Kyrene School District Governing Board, and Dartmouth, MA- Town Meeting Member

Occupation: Owner at Custom Language Training, computer systems analyst

Education: BS Computer Science

Accepting PAC Contributions: Yes

Are you interested in an endorsement: Yes

SURVEY QUESTIONS:

1) If elected, what are your top three priorities for 2017-2018?

Answer: My top three priorities for 2017-2018 are i. Schools - Improve Arizona's public education system, including steps to restore funding for public education. ii. Jobs - Make an economic environment in which all Arizonans and businesses can succeed. iii. Safety - In neighborhoods, safeguard police and fire by stopping the raid on cities' funds. Make all of Arizona safer with improvements in the Department of Corrections to reduce inmates and save money as other states like UT and TX have done.

2) Do you support eliminating the HURF transfers to DPS and other non-road construction and maintenance purposes?

Answer: Yes

Comments: a. The maintenance, improvement, and construction of transportation infrastructure is crucial to our economy's development, and personal safety.

3) Do you support the continued use of bona fide independent contractors in the trucking industry and oppose efforts by state and local governments to reclassify owner-operators as employees?

Answer: Yes

Comments: I am particularly opposed to attempts --by the state legislature to reclassify independent contractors -- that would bring Arizona into conflict with federal law.

4a) Do you support the conversion of our existing infrastructure into toll roads?

Answer: No

4b) Do you support the use of toll roads for construction of new infrastructure?

Answer: No

Comments: The purpose of converting existing infrastructure into toll roads would be to provide funds for their

maintenance and improvement, both of which should already be provided for by HURF.

5) On a scale of one to ten (one being low), how important do you believe transportation infrastructure (roads and highways) is to the success of the Arizona's economy?

Answer: 10

Comments: i. One of my priorities as a legislator is economic development, a goal which cannot be achieved without proper transportation infrastructure. Arizona must stop kicking the can down the road when it comes to infrastructure maintenance and improvements. That pattern of ignoring infrastructure is costing us more in the long run.

6) Do you support exploring options to increase revenues for transportation funding through either taxes or fees?

Answer:

Comments: I do believe that the state should explore and adopt new ways to support transportation funding. The report by the Arizona Auditor General is worrying and we should find ways to address the issue and fix it. We need long term plans, not short term gimmicks. Fuel taxes and excise fees need to be considered for their long-term economic impact. Fees that are set at a dollars per gallon rate do not grow with inflation. Let's not make the same mistakes again. We need thorough studies of changes for taxes that support our economy and make that support fair for every Arizonan.

7) Do you support or oppose the "Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol" ballot proposition?

Answer:

Comments: If the people of Arizona pass the initiative, we will need responsible policies and regulations to keep Arizonans safe in our communities and on our roadways. Our policies and programs must keep it out of the hands of children, and must include factual education about the effects of the drug.