



7500 W. Madison St. | Tolleson, Arizona 85353
phone: 602-850-6000 | fax: 602-252-8008
www.arizonatrucking.com

2016 Candidate Survey Results

Name: Matt Kopec

Office Sought: Arizona House

District: 9

Status: Incumbent

Party: Democratic

Website: KopecForArizona.com

Previous Public Office(s): Local Boards and Commissions

Occupation: State Rep.

Education: BA, University of Arizona, 2011

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: I was inspired to run for public office because I believe the state is going the wrong direction in ensuring that public education is a priority at the Capitol. I was lucky enough to go through Arizona's public education when it was well funded. I believe that future generations should be afforded the same opportunities I was, and we, as a state, can no longer continue to kick the can down the road. I believe that public school funding is an important issue facing Arizona. I think that every child in Arizona should have access to well-maintained, well-staffed public schools. To that end, I have been, and will continue to be, supportive of bills to better fund for the Arizona School Facilities Board, and to establish teacher training and retention programs. Arizona's transportation system and infrastructure is lacking. Our roads need to be better maintained, because better infrastructure saves citizens money and makes facilitating the shipping of goods more efficient. That is why I have worked to end fund sweeps from the Highway User Revenue Fund, and to increase the state's funding commitment to HURF. I believe local jurisdictions should be able to set their own priorities, and that the will of the voters should be respected by the state. Every city requires different resources to build a stable environment.

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

Answer: Yes

Comments: DPS needs to receive appropriate funding, but not at HURF's expense. Transportation infrastructure is incredibly important, and our need for a well-funded HURF will only grow as our roads continue to age. The legislature needs to find more responsible ways of funding all of Arizona's programs, and I want to return to the Arizona House of Representatives to help make that happen.

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 will say that while this model seems to be working well for the trucking industry, we do need to understand that the 21st sharing economy does pose certain challenges for workers and that is something we need to keep an eye on.

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: At this point I do not support toll roads. I feel that an adequate HURF funding model, combined with impact fees, and regional authorities (like the RTA in Pima County) would be able to provide for the transportation infrastructure we need.

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: 9

Comments: I currently serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the House. I recognize the importance of this issue, and it will continue to be one of my priorities.

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

Answer: Yes, I think the legislature needs to increase taxes or fees to raise revenue for road infrastructure.

Comments: The current HURF funding model has not changed since the early 1990's, since then inflation, the CPI, fuel costs,

and MPG standards have all necessitated an increase in road funding.

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

Answer: I support the marijuana proposition.

Comments: I feel marijuana does not pose more of a threat to public health and safety than alcohol. We will, however, need rigorous oversight of legalized marijuana to ensure as safe as possible dispensation. We need look closely at other states that have legalized marijuana to learn best practices. I also believe that employers should be able to set policies for their work places that protect employees and customers.

###