

Arizona Trucking Association Candidate Survey 2018

Name: **Ralph Atchue**

Office Sought: **Arizona Senate**

District: **11**

Status: **Open Seat**

Party: **Democratic**

Website: **www.Atchue4AZSenate.com**

Previous Office(s):

Education: **BA**

Occupation: **Retired (33 years U.S. Postal Service Letter Carrier-Postmaster)**

Accepting PAC Contributions: **No**

Are you interested in an endorsement: **Yes**

5. If elected, what are your top three priorities for 2019-2020?

Answer: 1. Full funding of public education at every level pre-K to post secondary 2. Tax policy overhaul that closes many loopholes and prioritizes working families and small business needs by stopping increases in sales tax and with increased infrastructure investment 3. Restoration of ethical, transparent and accountable government.

6. 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 support all small/independent business owners and operators as vital partners in our economy.

7. Do you support the conversion of our existing infrastructure into toll roads?

Answer: No

8. Do you support the use of toll roads for construction of new infrastructure?

Answer: No

9. 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: If we intend to be an economically competitive state, we must invest in the infrastructure needs of today and tomorrow.

10. Currently, alternative fuel vehicles (natural gas and electric) do not pay any taxes or fees for use of the

roads. (i.e. a gas tax substitute) Do you believe that these vehicles should pay something for use of the roads, or do you believe that they should continue to get a discount for using alternative fuels?

Answer: I believe alternative fueled vehicles should pay something for use of the roads.

Comments: Road usage is separate from environmental protection. I would support legislation aimed at correcting this tax imbalance.

11. Currently, both the Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Safety have law enforcement officers that specialize in commercial vehicle enforcement. Do you believe Arizona should look at consolidating all truck enforcement activities under the Department of Public Safety?

Answer: Yes, I believe we should look at consolidating ADOT's law enforcement under the DPS.

Comments: I support the consolidation only if there is adequate training for officers and consistency of regulations and enforcement.

12. Given the importance of transportation is to our economic success, how would you propose we solve the revenue shortfall needs for transportation?

Answer: I support an appropriate increase in the gas tax - at both state and federal levels. I would, however, consider a rebate/deduction based on income. I am concerned about tax increases that disproportionately burden low income/working families and small business owners/operators. I am proposing a non-partisan audit of the \$13.7B annual sales tax loopholes. Each loophole would be audited at least every 6 years. Each one found to not be providing a return on investment should be closed.