

Arizona Trucking Association Candidate Survey 2018

Name: **Jennifer Pawlik**

Office Sought: **Arizona House**

District: **17**

Status: **Challenger**

Party: **Democratic**

Website: **<https://jenniferpawlik.com>**

Previous Office(s): **Precinct Committee Person, State Committee Person**

Education: **Northern Arizona University, Masters (Curriculum & Instruction), Bachelors (Elementary Education)**

Occupation: **Educator**

Accepting PAC Contributions: **Yes**

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

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

Answer: 1. Properly funding education. 2. Ensuring affordable healthcare access for all Arizonans (Including the working poor). 3. Encouraging businesses to relocate to and remain in Arizona.

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 strongly believe that all working people should have access to workers' compensation, insurance, and unemployment benefits. They should be allowed to work as independent contractors.

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: It is extremely important because without well-maintained infrastructure, transportation of goods are impacted as seen in 2015 when the bridge on the I-10 in California collapsed.

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: As stated above, we have to think creatively when considering how our roads and infrastructure are funded because we cannot count on the HURF funding being available each year. If there is some sort of road-usage fee, it should not be so high that alternative fuel vehicle owners no longer feel the benefits of owning such a vehicle.

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: Consolidating may be more cost efficient. I would like to hear arguments in favor and against consolidation prior to committing to a change.

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

Answer: The revenue shortfall is a huge issue that impacts so many parts of the budget. Because taxes have been cut the last 27 of 28 years, there isn't enough revenue in the General Fund. Added to this shortage is the fact that dedicated HURF funds are consistently swept to ensure a balanced budget. Monies that are dedicated for one area (like HURF) should not be swept. The gas and diesel tax have not been raised for 26 years. Maybe it is time to increase that tax so that we can properly maintain our roads.