

## Arizona Trucking Association Candidate Survey 2018

Name: **Bradley Hughes**

Office Sought: **Arizona House**

District: **21**

Status: **Challenger**

Party: **Democratic**

Website: **www.HughesforLD21.com**

Previous Office(s):

Education: **MD**

Occupation: **Physician**

Accepting PAC Contributions: **No**

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

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

**Answer: Adequately funding public education Lower Healthcare costs Tax fairness**

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: My granddad was an owner/operator in Kentucky. He had the freedom to accept or turn down loads depending on his income and life needs. While I understand the concerns of those wishing to redesignate truck drivers, I think there are likely better ways to achieve those goals than forcing truck drivers to take loads they may not want and employers to pay drivers even if there is not work to be done.**

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: 9**

**Comments: More and more we are relying on ground transportation for goods as well as everyday travel. It is vitally important that we maintain this infrastructure for everyone.**

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 continue to get a discount for use of the roads.**

**Comments: I believe use of alternative fuels is inevitable and we need to plan for that transition. Burning fossil fuels causes a significant number of lung related illnesses and even deaths. We can make that transition in a smart way that doesn't leave anyone behind.**

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: No, I do not believe we should consolidate ADOT's law enforcement under DPS.**

**Comments: To be honest this is not something I have looked at closely so this is just my initial impression. I do believe there are some unique challenges and rules that relate to commercial vehicles. However, I don't know the dollar figures for this, so it could make more fiscal sense to consolidate. This is an area I would be interested in hearing more about before I made a firm decision one way or the other.**

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 centerpiece of my tax plan involves restructuring the way we do sales tax. Broadening the base and lowering the rate can make the tax more fair and increase revenue. Exise and luxury taxes are another area for increasing revenue that I would be open to. My philosophy is to be open to any changes that increase revenue without a negative effect on middle and low income earners. When you look at total tax bill (Income, Sales, Property, Excise) our lowest income earners have been paying more than their fair share. So my plan would include an overall tax reduction for the bottom 80% of earners with a moderate increase for the top 20%.**