

## Arizona Trucking Association Candidate Survey 2018

Name: **Ben Toma**  
 Office Sought: **Arizona House** District: **22** Status: **Incumbent** Party: **Republican**  
 Website: **http://www.bentoma.com**  
 Previous Office(s): **State Representative**  
 Education: **College**  
 Occupation: **Real Estate Broker**  
 Accepting PAC Contributions: **Yes** Are you interested in an endorsement: **Yes**

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

**Answer: Tax reform Eliminate unnecessary red tape Promote local economy**

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:**

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: I selected 9 because the highest priority is keeping a business friendly regulatory environment and fair taxes, but infrastructure is where we need to invest as much as we can.**

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:**

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:**

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

**Answer: We should look at all options on the table. I don't think the gas tax is the way to go because it is a declining revenue source with the rise of alternate fuels, but I do think we get the best return on infrastructure investments long term (minus light rail which I oppose). So, I think we should look at a renewal for prop 400 that spends more on roads and less on light rail. In addition, we should look at other revenue sources and continue to invest in new and better roads (again, not light rail) because the payoff will be huge long term for our economy: growth will provide new revenue so we should do all we can to manage it smartly.**