

## Arizona Trucking Association Candidate Survey 2018

Name: **Juan Mendez**

Office Sought: **Arizona Senate**

District: **26**

Status: **Incumbent**

Party: **Democratic**

Website: **www.mendezforaz.com**

Previous Office(s): **State House D26**

Education: **ASU - BA Political Science**

Occupation: **Co-Instructor**

Accepting PAC Contributions: **No**

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

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

**Answer: Ending tax cuts that are not creating jobs, properly funding public education and addressing water conservation and waste.**

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:**

**Comments: I don't think there is too much inherently wrong with corporations working with independent contractors. But there are many corporations who are wrongly categorized as independent contractors in order to take advantage of workers. I am not aware of the state's attempt to reclassify owner-operators as employees and would need to learn more information about their intentions. I believe corporation should take responsibility for their workers.**

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: We couldn't move goods without a transportation infrastructure.**

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: No, I do not believe we should consolidate ADOT's law enforcement under 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: I would vote to raise the diesel and gas tax if the bill ever made it out of committee. I would stop sweeping the Highway User Fee Fund. I would support studying a Vehicle Miles Traveled and look for other ways for sourcing sustainable revenue**