

Arizona Trucking Association Candidate Survey 2018

Name: **Betty Villegas**

Office Sought: **Arizona Senate**

District: **3**

Status: **Open Seat**

Party: **Democratic**

Website: **www.bettyvillegasazsenate.com**

Previous Office(s): **NA**

Education: **Attended UA, Pima College, Professional Development Internal classes through Pima County Government, Financial Institutions programs**

Occupation: **Former(retired) Pima County Housing Program Manager**

Accepting PAC Contributions: **No** Are you interested in an endorsement: **Yes**

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

Answer: Fully funding Public Education, Higher Education (Pima Community College & UA), JTED (restore 9th grade CTE program) Protect Medicaid Expansion and Kidscare at full funding Affordable Housing, Fully restoring funding for AZ Housing Trust Fund

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 say yes, but I would like to research this, talk to trucking industry workers and other stakeholders to weigh out the pros and cons prior to a final decision.

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: 8

Comments: I think they are highly important to get products back and forth.

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 would need to research this further to see if there is a breaking point for the additional expense of purchasing an alt-fuel vehicle, at which time they could then start paying into the use of roads.

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: I answer no because I would want to see who has more capacity and experience in this type of enforcement prior to making a decision.

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 need to start by raising the gas tax as it is long overdue for reasons stated. We then have to look at other federal, state and local funds to determine other revenue and ensure that Southern Arizona specifically Pima County gets its fair share of funds for transportation.