

Arizona Trucking Association Candidate Survey 2018

Name: **Walter Blackman**

Office Sought: **Arizona House**

District: **6**

Status: **Open Seat**

Party: **Republican**

Website: **blackman4az.com**

Previous Office(s): **None**

Education: **Military Education**

Occupation: **Military**

Accepting PAC Contributions: **Yes**

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

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

Answer: Education Funding Infrastructure Law and order

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: Traditional workers' compensation provides medical and wage replacement benefits for injured employees. When an employee is injured in the course of employment, they are generally covered by an employer's workers' compensation insurance subject to a few exceptions. If the injured worker is not an employee but an independent contractor, traditional workers' compensation may not apply unless the contractor purchased their own workers' compensation insurance. It's important that as lawmakers we do what we can to support all aspects of our trucking industries and those independent contractors who supplies consumers everyday.

7. Do you support the conversion of our existing infrastructure into toll roads?

Answer:

8. Do you support the use of toll roads for construction of new infrastructure?

Answer: Yes

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: 1

Comments: Transportation infrastructures the road and rail networks we depend on are easily taken for granted. After all, they are "infra" below

the structures. They remain hidden, out of sight, out of mind until the break. Road construction should be one of the first improvements in American infrastructure. Major cities in the northeast are often connected by post roads. It's important that we ensure our transportation infrastructure is secured and well managed by continual improvements and updates.

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: The increasing extent of state limitations on counties' capacity to raise revenue is making provision of these services more difficult. State limitations include restricting the types of taxes counties may impose, limitations both on the rates of permitted taxes, the total revenue collected, property assessment and an obstacle-strewn

approval process. Concurrent with these constraints, state and federal governments require counties to provide a growing scope of services. These mandates are often unfunded either entirely or partially. Revenue sharing by states and other state and federal funding for county services alleviate some of these mandate related costs. But in many instances, these supplementary sources have become more unpredictable and smaller in size. Overall, six years following the start of the Great Recession, fiscal tensions remain across counties, with inflation-adjusted general revenue fully recovered in only 46 percent of counties. Local option sales tax: A tax collected by a local government on the sale of any taxable goods within its jurisdiction, if the local government is granted the authority by the state. Besides state authority, often the local government needs a local law or

voter approval to implement the local option sales tax. State departments of transportation (ADOTs) are beginning to implement innovative financing strategies such as tolling and public-private partnerships (PPPs), but the bulk of their funding still comes from motor fuel taxes. Using even conservative estimates for market acceptance of technological improvements, such as hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles, the prognosis indicates a dramatic increase in motor fleet efficiency (cars and trucks) in the United States over the coming quarter century. Revenues from taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel are credited to the trust fund, and then the highway and mass transit accounts receive shares. Revenues from the three different taxes on trucks are credited entirely to the Highway Account. Currently, more than 85 percent of the revenues in the Highway Trust Fund go to the Highway Account.