



Children's Action Alliance

A Voice for Arizona's Children since 1988

2008 Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Children's Action Alliance 2008 Candidate Questionnaire. Please mark the appropriate "yes" or "no" box and use the following space for comments or clarification. You may type your answers on a separate page (please number the questions). Return this completed cover sheet and your answers by July 21, 2008 to 4001 North Third Street, Suite 160, Phoenix, AZ 85012 or fax to (602) 263-8792. Contact Matt Jewett at mjewett@azchildren.org or (602) 266-0707 x 204 with questions.

Name (please print) Judah Nativio District 18

House OR Senate (circle one) Political Affiliation Democratic Date 7/5/2008

Candidate signature Judah Nativio

1. 279,000 Arizona children – nearly 4,000 school bus loads of kids – lack health insurance. An estimated half of these uninsured children are eligible for coverage in Arizona through AHCCCS or KidsCare, but aren't enrolled. While the number of employers offering health insurance to employees and their children continues to drop, AHCCCS and KidsCare have provided cost-effective care through private doctors and health plans. These programs have increased the percent of children with health insurance in Arizona from 74% in 1997 to 83% in 2005.

Should KidsCare be strengthened to cover more uninsured children? Yes No

Comments: _____

2. Child care costs of \$5,000 to \$10,000 per child per year are simply more than many parents can afford. In Arizona, state and federal tax dollars have helped to fill in the gap for working families for the past 45 years. This public funding gives qualified parents a voucher to choose the child care that works best for their families while they go to work.

Do you support state funding for child care subsidies to keep up with the growing number of children in Arizona and higher costs for child care? Yes No

Comments: _____

- 3. According to the recent KIDS COUNT Data Book published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Arizona's arrest rate for juvenile violent crime is below the national rate. But Arizona has the 6th highest rate of youth held in secure confinement for non-violent offenses and about half of the youth who are incarcerated in county detention or state facilities are re-incarcerated after they are released. National research and successful programs in Arizona show that supervised treatment in the community can produce better results for youth, taxpayers, and public safety than secure confinement.

Should the state increase effective, community-based services and supervision for youth and their families to reduce the use of secure confinement? Yes No

Comments: _____

- 4. In 2000, the Arizona legislature passed a law that allowed payday loans in the state and allowed them to exceed the normal 36% maximum interest rate. (The annualized interest rate on a payday loan is about 400%.) Because the fees are so high and because most people take out additional loans, payday loans lead many families into very high-cost debt. Half of payday loan customers in Arizona have children younger than 18. Even in states with stricter regulation than Arizona, 90% of payday lending business is generated by borrowers with 5 or more loans per year. Twelve states and the District of Columbia have laws that prohibit payday lending. Arizona's law that allows payday loans sunsets in 2010.

Do you support the proposed ballot initiative to override the sunset and permanently allow payday loans? Yes No

Comments: _____

- 5. According to the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at ASU, one out of three Arizona children has at least one immigrant parent and 80% of these children are U.S. citizens.

Should state policies give citizen children living in immigrant families services for health, education and security? Yes No

Comments: _____

6. Arizona's state constitution includes multiple limits on spending and taxes for the state as well as for cities, counties, school districts, and other local governments. The constitution prohibits the state legislature from raising any taxes, closing any tax loopholes, or raising any new revenue unless there is a vote for the increase by 2/3 of the legislature. The constitution also limits total state appropriations to 7.41% of statewide personal income.

Does Arizona need additional constitutional formulas for taxes or government spending?

Yes No

Comments: _____

7. Each year Child Protective Services (CPS) receives approximately 35,000 reports of child abuse or neglect. Currently, 9,700 children live in foster care and 14,600 children are receiving help while living with their families. The state legislature and the governor have been pursuing state policies to strengthen the working relationships between CPS and law enforcement, and connect families with community services so that more children can stay safely in their own homes without having to be removed to foster care. CPS continues to struggle with high caseloads and retaining experienced staff.

What policy or funding changes would make CPS stronger and better protect children from abuse and neglect?

Need to lower caseloads by increasing case officers, lower loads and should reduce attention

8. The state legislature and Governor recently adopted a revised budget to close an estimated \$1 billion deficit for fiscal year 2008. They also had to close a nearly \$2 billion deficit to balance the fiscal year 2009 state budget. It is likely that the fiscal year 2010 budget will also have a significant deficit.

What are the top three areas you would look at to balance the state budget for 2010?

1) review and assess tax exemption taxes and transaction privilege taxes
 2) Increase research development credit to provide more opportunity for increased revenues
 3) Evaluate expensive programs and policies for possible cuts or privatization

