



Congratulations on your candidacy for the Arizona State Legislature. Stand for Children is a non-partisan, non-profit education advocacy organization. Our mission is to ensure all Arizona students graduate from high school prepared for, and with access to, college and career opportunities. We do this by educating and empowering community members, advocating for effective policies, ensuring strong policy implementation, and supporting courageous leaders at the ballot box.

In the 2018 election cycle, Stand for Children will consider endorsing candidates aligned with our mission and current policy priorities. In the questionnaire below please provide responses indicating your position on our key focus areas. Please limit your overall responses to 6 pages.

Thank you for your willingness to share your perspectives and preferences regarding public education.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate's Name: Jill Norgaard

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District (LD): 18

Party Affiliation: Republican

E-Mail Address(es): norgaard4AZ@gmail.com

Phone: 602-402-6844

Alternate Campaign Contact: Lorraine Pellegrino

Campaign Website: jillnorgaard.com

Education (Please note highest degree achieved): Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Masters' in Business Administration

Previous Elected Office(s) Held: LD18 State Representative 2014-present

Current Profession: State Representative

Please describe why you are qualified for the office sought:

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What are your top three priorities for public education in Arizona?

Every child has the opportunity to attend a school crafted for their specific needs, not a one size fits-all.

Resources are available for targeted students that need special focus such as math, reading, ELL, dyslexia.

School safety to be made a priority – Conduct school security assessments to evaluate the threat level. Have each district make recommendations based on their specific situation, that ensures the safety and security of our students while maintaining the charm and character of the individual school.

2. What state policy change(s) do you believe could allow more Arizona children attend a quality school, be taught by an effective teacher and be provided with opportunities to succeed?

I would actually like to see more repealed of what the state requires schools to conform to. Last year, I sponsored bills (HB2218, 2219) that simplified some of the finance formulas and eliminated some of the redundant reporting requirements. Principals have many audits of teachers, and excessive reporting requirements, teachers estimate they spend 20% of class time taking tests and you cannot get that time back. I meet with our Superintendents each year to outline what the state overreach is, and there is a lot of work to do there.

3. What role should the state play in holding schools accountable for student academic growth and achievement?

Schools receive public funding and as such, the taxpayers should be able to know how their money is being spent and if it effective. If a school is failing they should be put on a performance improvement plan with an end date.



Currently, Stand for Children Arizona is focused on several policy areas: Early Literacy and Grade-Level Reading, English Language Instruction and School Finance. The following questions address those priorities.

Early Literacy & Grade-Level Reading

Based on the Spring 2017 statewide assessment, 56% of Arizona students cannot read on grade-level by the end of third grade, meaning only 44% of students are reading on grade-level. Scores have improved overall, but with the statewide goal of 72% of 3rd graders reading on grade-level by 2030, we have a long way to go. When looking at the data by school and region, it shows the improvement is concentrated in a small percentage of schools while many Arizona schools struggle to increase students' reading ability (see attached data sheet). Reading proficiency at this point in a student's academic career is vitally important. Research shows failure to read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade is linked to ongoing academic struggles, failure to graduate high school on time, and it dramatically reduces and creates barriers to entry into a postsecondary institution or career opportunities.

4. Would you support providing targeted funding and evidence-based programs, such as reading coaches and summer school, to improve the reading proficiency of Arizona students?

Absolutely! I have done a lot of work with students with dyslexia, with targeted reading resources. See #5

5. Would you support state funding for early learning opportunities such as full-day kindergarten or quality pre-school for 3 and 4-year olds?

I would start first as a pilot program with private funding as we did with the dyslexia pre-school pilot program we launched this year. We are working with ASU graduate students, parents of dyslexic students, FTF, ReadOn AZ, and other stakeholders to develop an educational template and an economic model we can duplicate. We observed a class last month at Kyrene Mariposa, and it was amazing what they are doing with the pre-school children. The students were excited and engaged. We will be getting parent testimonials to help showcase the program and acquire additional funds for more programs.

My bill (HB2202) from 2017, established a handbook for decoding dyslexia, which Arizona did not have, and we became the 17th state to have a dyslexia handbook. This was the spring board from which this pilot program came. We will be hosting a booth at

the FTF summit this August, to show the characteristics of dyslexia are, and what resources are available to address the needs of those students. Kyrene de la Mariposa School was not only the first in the Arizona, but the first in the United States to launch a pre-school program that decodes students with dyslexia! Something we should all be proud of and support!

English Language Learners (ELL)

Current state policies regarding ELL students were adopted in response to a lawsuit and limited by voter-protected requirements. They have been in place for 12 years. These policies use a one-size fits all approach, unlike any other education policy. During the 2018 legislative session, Stand moved H.B. 2435 through the process. The bill allowed for flexibility at the local level while preserving voter mandates and it provided for needed transparency and accountability. HB 2435 passed unanimously out of the House and Senate Education committees. Unfortunately, the bill failed to get a final vote in the last days of the session as time ran out.

6. Would you support legislation similar to HB 2435 to change current ELL instructional requirements in order to provide local flexibility, increased accountability and transparency and more efficient use of funds?

Yes, that bill was in my committee and I was disappointed it got hung up in the Senate. We have to start those bills earlier in the year, and work on tweaking them this summer so they get passed right away, and do not get held up in political battle.

7. Would you sign a pledge to support similar legislation, if elected?

Absolutely, and I appreciate Stacey helping me with my bill, HB2281 - where a dual language school is adequate to fulfill the four-hour block. I hope to work with Stand for Children (borrow Stacey) this summer to craft a bill that will make it across the finish line. Many schools would like to implement dual language programs, but the four-hour block requirement is prohibiting them from doing so.

8. If not, what policies would you support to improve ELL instruction?



School Finance

Arizona's current school finance system is over 30 years old. It was designed to support local school districts funded by their taxpayers with the state providing what could not be raised locally. Since that time, Arizona's public-school system has expanded to include a myriad of choices: open enrollment, charter schools and Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs); many students don't attend their local community school. The current system is outdated and continues to increase reliance on state funding. State policies which continue to limit the ability to raise revenue have resulted in the chronic underfunding of public schools. Short-term solutions and targeted investments fail to address the underlying problem. Stand for Children advocates for sufficient funding for all Arizona students, regardless of where they live or what type of school they attend.

9. What would you do or support to increase public school funding to at least the national average?

10. How do you plan to grow state revenue, establish new revenue sources and provide additional resources for education?

Below, please include any additional information you believe Stand for Children should know about your priorities: