



Congratulations on your candidacy for the Arizona 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: Joanne Osborne

Office Sought: House of Representatives

Legislative District (LD): 13

Party Affiliation: Republican

E-Mail Address(es): Joanne@Osborneforarizona.com

Phone: 602-859-1511

Alternate Campaign Contact: Chris Shipley 480-225-2621

Campaign Website: OsborneforArizonaHouse.com

Education (Please note highest degree achieved): AA - Phoenix College, Harvard Executive Education Program - State and Local Government

Previous Elected Office(s) Held: City of Goodyear - Vice-Mayor and City Council Member

Current Profession: Small Business Owner - Osborne Jewelers since 1990

Please describe why you are qualified for the office sought:

I am the most qualified candidate in this race. My 27 years as a business owner, a mother of four, City Council Member for 11 years, Arizona Native, Hospital Board Director, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association Board Member, Past Vice Chairman of the Homeless Youth Connection and mentor to over 300 teenagers, gives me the greatest experience necessary to do the job and make the best decisions.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What are your top three priorities for public education in Arizona?
 - Stable, on-going funding for public education that can ebb & flow with the economy
 - Children's high achievement in Reading
 - Teacher pay, support, recruitment, and retention

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 believe in local control, but unification would be a positive change. Set goals, achievement standards, and metrics. Allow these standards to stay in place long enough that teachers are not fatigued with annual changes and let them be innovative.

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

We currently, have the A-F formula, but what it misses and what parents may want to know is about safety, extra-curricular activities, sports, etc. a dashboard would be helpful.

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?

Yes; research supports these approaches to help improve early literacy, and to help students read on grade level by 3rd grade. As a side note, as a Council Member, I created the Goodyear Citywide Reading Challenge for grades K-8, which was a month long, classroom challenge between every other classroom of the same grade. We awarded the winning classroom for each grade-level with a plaque, treats and with 6-8th graders receiving even greater prizes.

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?

Yes. Our children absolutely need these high-quality learning situations. I've been told, that research supports the fact that children do better if they have had a quality early learning experience, especially if they are a child living in poverty where they may not get that support at home.

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, I am a big supporter of local control and doing what is necessary for each individual student as well as the transparency with use of funds and the more efficient use of funds.

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

I do not believe in pledges, as a leader, I know one size does not fit all and varying items may change the scope of what you are trying to support. Leaders should not have their hands tied in doing what is right and moving us in the correct direction.

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

As above, I stated I would support HB 2435.

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?

Stable, on-going funding for public education is one of my top educational priorities. I would advocate to increase funding for public schools. I would support school finance and tax reform.

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

There are several options to look at for funding. However, the real issue lies in how to get support for any one of them moving forward. Any combination with broad support would be helpful:

- Continue to allocate more of the state budget to education
- Tax Reform
- Ask voters to increase Prop 301 by 0.4%
- Will Indian Gaming play a role for increased funds?

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

Thank you for this opportunity to answer your questions. MY passion is strong for our youth and their future. I know education = economic development and we need to execute strong policies and plans that allow for the brightest future.

