



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: KATHY PAPPAS PETSAS

Office Sought: STATE HOUSE

Legislative District (LD): LD28

Party Affiliation: REPUBLICAN

E-Mail Address(es): KATHY@KATHYPETSASAZ.COM Phone: 480.948.3339

Alternate Campaign Contact: GABE RUSHING

Campaign Website: WWW.KATHYPETSASAZ.COM

Education (Please note highest degree achieved): SPEECH COMMUNICATIONS / RADIO & TELEVISION - BACHELOR OF ARTS - UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Previous Elected Office(s) Held: none

Current Profession: COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER, PHILANTHROPY & MOM

Please describe why you are qualified for the office sought:

I know I have a lot to learn, I am not an expert. However, I understand and have demonstrated "servant leadership" through my active and extensive community service in AZ and LD28, as a team player or leader. Several unique experiences I have leading large groups of people of varied interests and abilities to a common goal, are notable and successful. It is important to me to behave in a way which reflects well on those I serve and most importantly, honors my family. In the future, I hope my words and actions will earn me the identity as a stateswoman and not a politician.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What are your top three priorities for public education in Arizona?
 - a. Increase student academic growth
 - b. Proper funding: for teachers/aides – identifying and retaining quality teachers/ aides; facility – building, maintenance and repairs; curriculum and technology; classroom
 - c. To improve understanding among parents, constituents and stake-holders of the state’s role in education funding and the school district role in budgeting the funds

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?

Completely re-evaluating the education funding model.

Taking a more forceful approach to non-succeeding schools.

Focus on energizing and funding (state and business partners) for “community schools” in areas challenged by socio- economic, environmental and societal issues.

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

Consistent and reliable funding and education policies. Accountable measurement tool which can swiftly provide student achievement results to schools, parents and districts.

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

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 want to explore all options for these opportunities to advance students- not just state funding options.

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?

Given the unanimous support out of the House and Senate Ed committees, I am interested to learn why the bill was not advanced through the process to pass before end of session.

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

I only pledge to the United States of America.

As a legislator I will act in good faith to support policies as you have expressed above, which allow for flexibility at the local level, while preserving voter mandates and demonstrate accountability and transparency... these are ideal characteristics of ANY type of good legislation.

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?

I will always be a sincere advocate for advancing public education funding in Arizona in order to provide for the highest standards for our students. What other states level of funding is not as big a concern to me as the level of funding our education leaders identify as necessary and that the taxpayer identifies as providing the service and quality they expect.

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

One person cannot grow state revenue or establish new revenue sources. A vibrant economy will provide opportunities for growth and attract more business to our state. Working together with legislators, business leaders and executive branch, r to identify new resources/ revenues will be everyone's focus this coming year, especially after this past Spring.

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

Other legislative issues I have a keen interest in are:

Water management; and Economic Development (jobs, infrastructure, healthcare)