



## Candidate Questionnaire 2016

### **1. Please list no more than three children, youth or family focused causes or organizations that you have supported as an employee, donor or volunteer.**

a. Ultimate Peace is a program working to bring together Palestinian and Israeli youth around the sport of Ultimate Frisbee. At our yearly camp, I work with about 30 young leaders, delegating responsibilities and mentoring them throughout the weeklong camps. I also organize an Activity Club that meets daily for an hour throughout the week for the campers. I also organize all the meal periods for 350 people, including campers and staff.

b. While working towards my degree at NAU, I student taught & performed practicum work at Flagstaff High, Sinagua Middle, and Coconino High Schools.

c. Through my small bike business I have a program where I provide free bikes and bike repairs for children.

Every child should have the opportunity to have a bike regardless of their parent's financial situation.

### **2. What do you believe the role of elected officials is in their communities when it comes to serving and advocating for children and youth?**

My reason for running for office in the first place is actually based on my experience as a student teacher. I realized then that there are many things we need to fix and improve when it comes to our education system as well as other issues related to children and their wellbeing. I believe elected officials have a very important role to play when it comes to serving and advocating for children and youth. We need stronger leadership, adequate funding, and appropriate policies. Representatives need to be leaders in regards to advocating for our youth, they need to educate themselves about important issues, be present at relevant events, fund core services, and pass policies that empower and support children and youth.

**3. What do you think the two most pressing issues are for youth and their families?**

I believe that financial hardship, and everything that is derived from that, including access to affordable and safe housing, nutritious food, and health care is one of the most pressing issues for the families in our communities. The second most pressing issue is adequately treating child abuse and neglect, from providing adequate immediate solutions, addressing it during youth incarcerations, finding and treating the causes, and supporting families.

**4. Within the duties of your elected office, how can and will you support children and families of our community?**

First and foremost I will meet with organizations and entities that work in this field to learn from them, identify the most pressing needs, and come up with a plan to find solutions that are within the hands of our local government. I will continue and hope to enhance support for organizations providing critical services for children, youth, and families, such as including funding for afterschool programs, food banks, local shelters, etc. In addition, I would first like to establish a youth commission at the city to hear directly from our youth about the issues they are facing and what we can do to serve them at the local level. The commission will also teach young leaders about how city government works. Being an education major, I want to treat City Hall as a classroom for all.

**5. How would you as an elected official support an equitable school system for ALL students, cradle to career?**

Funding our schools is mostly in the hands of our state legislators. I feel that they have failed our students and teachers in adequately funding schools and as an elected official I will do everything in my power to advocate for equitable school funding whenever we have an opportunity to work with state representatives or comment on state issues.

**6. Please share your thoughts on early childhood education and its role in the educational system.**

My mother is a early child educator and I experienced first hand the benefits of early childhood programs. Today, a significant body of research supports early childhood education and demonstrates that children enrolled in early education and Head Start programs greatly benefit. I believe early childhood has an important role in the educational system, whether it's formal early education, or activities and programs

done at home. The experiences children have when young shape their interaction with the world. They need to have quality opportunities to learn about the world and themselves from a very young age.

**7. Even with the passage of Prop. 123, Arizona is one of the lowest states in the nation on per pupil funding. As an elected official, how would you work with other elected officials at any level to ensure an increase in per pupil funding as the next step to Prop. 123?**

I plan to do everything within my jurisdiction to increase the quality of our schools through funding. Being a dual major graduate from NAU in education, I understand the struggles in our state and feel that these must be addressed. I will work with other elected officials, including fellow council members, County supervisors, State legislators to increase funding for education.

**8. How can concern for the welfare of children be expressed in your legislative agenda?**

As I mentioned above, I will be a strong supporter of funding for children and youth programs at the local level. Also, through the youth commission i hope to give our youth a voice to bring forward policies that will represent them. I believe that getting young people involved in local politics will prepare them to become our future leaders and provide them with tools to create positive change in their lives.