

**Arizona Republic Questionnaire**  
**From the Desk of State Senator David Braswell**

**Arizona 2020 Questions**

- **If you were to create a 10-year strategic plan for Arizona, what would be its most essential element? Why? Economic Growth, Business Development for existing and new businesses to improve infrastructure, increase jobs that pay a livable wage with benefits. This would be my central focus because I believe that Arizona currently cannot sustain its current growth on low paying jobs for its citizens that does not provide benefits and the ability to provide for their families without them continue to seeking additional public assistance. I further believe that quality education must also be a critical part of this growth plan in order to attract the quality businesses willing to provide a livable wage and benefits.**
  
- **What is the most significant obstacle to Arizona's future prosperity and how would you remove it? Arizona's business tax structure that currently stifles economic growth and existing and new business development. I would make it much more simple, competitive with other states and require the creation of livable wage jobs and benefits before tax cuts are enacted.**
  
- **What should be the role of state universities in shaping Arizona's future? State Universities should continue their role in obtaining research dollars for the creation of leading business development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century for Arizona. Moreover, I would like to see the university systems administrative fees to administer these grants, often over 50% of each grant dollar, reduced drastically. More grant dollars should be earmarked for business development and less to university administration fees. They should also focus more on increasing their endowments to allow interest dollars generated through the endowment to provide scholarships for only in-state students to attend an Arizona University. Finally, our universities should be motivated with state support for the number of Arizona students that enter and graduate verses the number of students that enter.**
  
- **How can government best help businesses to prosper over the next 10 years? Government can best help businesses to prosper by removing all unnecessary impact fees and costly regulations that stifle immediate growth and add unneeded cost to infrastructure investments to get a business up and running. Government must stop taxing them at the fourth highest rate in the nation. They should motivate business to come to Arizona not avoid it because of its tax burden.**
  
- **How can government ensure that Arizona's students will have the tools they need to succeed over the next 10 years? First, we must stop building traditional 1950 style schools designed to require students to come to a building to learn. We must build smaller community learning centers that operate 7 days a week 24 hours a day using technology. Second, we must restructure the teacher certification system so that it no longer requires a teacher to be an expert in instructional methodology but rather an**

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**expert in facilitating learning using technology. Third we must design and place on line a state wide technology based on-line high school that allows students to take courses on-line in any area or track they believe will best suit their needs and interests regardless of where they are when they access the internet class. Forth, we must put in place a state-wide information management system that monitors student mastery of state mandated standards and benchmarks in real-time so re-teaching occurs before failure. Fifth, we must pass legislation that includes strong support for charter, on-line, private on-line and home school on-line opportunities. We should consolidate school services in the following areas: food services, transportation, custodial, maintenance between schools operating in close proximity of one another. Sixth, we should place much more focus on moving students on when they display that they have mastered the state mandated standards and benchmarks. Finally, we should allow community college instructors to teach those classes for high school students on-line and at high-schools and JTEDS using those facilities. We should not mandate that they only be taught by high school teachers certified to teach college classes. Let the college instructors go to the students while they are still attending high-school. Graduates of Arizona 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools must be prepared to speak several languages, access high level business courses, management courses, engineering courses, mechanical courses, medical courses, trade courses and the list goes on. Our traditionally built schools and systems are not meeting this need for our 21<sup>st</sup> Century students in the current brick and mortar system and unless will change this system will prevent them and Arizona from competing in a global economy.**

- **What should Arizona learn from the great recession? We should learn that economies built on a foundation of sales taxes will not prosper when the economy takes a downward turn. We should learn that providing socialistic services for all will bankrupt the basic services our constitution requires we provide and nothing more. We should learn that taxing property owners and businesses inhibits business development and job growth for businesses willing to come to our state and provide a livable wage with benefits. It should tell us that we have not been good stewards maintaining the health of our economy that provides all Arizona Citizens the ability to provide for their families and live in communities with quality education and safe streets and borders.**