

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS
from the Congressional District 3 Forum on
Arizona's Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources (July 8, 2010):

Please answer these questions in writing and return them to Steve Arnquist sarnquist@azlcv.org by close of business on Monday July 12th. The candidates who attended had only 2 minutes to answer each question so please keep your statements brief but informative. The questions are direct quotes from the moderators.

1. OPENING STATEMENT

2. Comprehensive clean energy climate change legislation was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last summer and now the Senate and House are both considering new bills. In light of the tragic oil spill in the gulf, many are calling for tighter oversight and regulation of the oil industry. What comprehensive legislation would you support to address these important energy issues?

I oppose the Waxman-Markey "Cap and Trade" bill passed by the House last year and any such plan that may be considered this year or in the future. The "Cap and Trade" plan will cap our economic growth and trade our jobs overseas. We need more and cleaner energy sources here in the United States, not an artificial market for energy that will only benefit new Enron-like traders.

3. The latest Clean Air Report released by the Arizona Lung Association gives mixed reviews about Arizona's air quality. The Lung Association is calling for Congress to pass the Clean Air Act Amendments of 2010, which will cut emissions from power plants that create particle pollution and ozone. What specific actions would you propose to clean up our air and protect children and families?

We need cleaner energy for transportation, personal and industrial uses. That means nuclear power, clean coal and natural gas as well solar and biofuels. We need to reduce the regulatory obstacles and create incentives (while maintaining the principle of economy) for greater production and use of these cleaner and more abundant energy sources that can be produced in the United States.

4. Over the long haul, investment in clean energy technology creates four times as many jobs as investments in non-clean energy sources. A report recently issued by Northern Arizona University shows that over the next ten to fifteen years aggressive development of renewable and nuclear energy in Arizona could generate more than ten billion in economic activity, more than 50,000 in construction-phase jobs, and more than 4,000 permanent new jobs. The question is what legislation do you support or how would you solve and deal with this problem to reduce carbon emissions and create clean energy jobs?

It is important to ensure that any energy policy is economical and sustainable. We can provide incentives to infant clean energy industries that will yield greater benefits over time than the existing energy system, maintain economy and sustain growth. Energy sources in the United States reduce our dependence on foreign sources and our trade deficit. I would support legislation that would provide for more clean energy produced economically here in the United States.

5. Arizona State Parks are suffering and in fact many of them are shut down because of state budget problems. One possible solution to help keep those parks open and to help with future recreation activities and recreation opportunities would be full-funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Would you support legislation that includes fully funding that fund?

While I am a great proponent of conservation, the Land and Water Conservation fund has only been fully funded twice since its inception in 1964. It is important in these times of fiscal crisis to balance our budget priorities like conservation with other priorities such as health care and defense.

6. We're going to the audience questions now. And the first question from the audience is how, and here's the key word, exactly will you build bi-partisan agreement on these complex public policy and technical issues that you've been talking about today?

Building partnerships in Congress is absolutely necessary to getting anything done. There is a divisive and partisan atmosphere in Washington. Notwithstanding the real differences between the parties, I know that you have to be able to find areas of common agreement and work together in a spirit of trust to make progress.

7. What is your position on an effort to allow the Arizona State Parks to become national monuments, which would in turn take them out of the state legislature's control, which we talked about earlier?

The abuse of the power to create national monuments at the expense of the Western States has grown dramatically over the past few decades since the Clinton Administration. I oppose these federal land grabs without appropriate consultation with local and state authorities.

8. What is your stance on transportation and mass transit in Arizona? And since you are running for the U.S. Congress, we will expand that a little bit, and how are you looking at dealing with transportation issues in general for the United States?

Mass transit and transportation policy, like energy policy, must meet the test of economy and sustainability. In addition, we must ensure that proposed improvements are actually desired by and useful to the traveling public.

9. Caring for and protecting our open spaces are critical to maintaining 'America the Beautiful.' What would you do to help preserve that land and help prevent development to ensure these areas are conserved?

As a proponent of conservation, I support the national park and national forest systems. Generally, I believe that development issues ought to be left to the States and Localities directly affected with due respect for the property rights of individuals.

10. The question from the audience is what will you do to make Arizona the solar capitol of the country? The additional add-on to that is going to be do you believe there is a need for a national energy policy and if you do believe that, how are we going to pay for it? We'll pay for it one way or the other through rates or through taxes or whatever. What's your suggestion on how we deal with that? What would that policy look like and I guess that's enough. We'll give them three minutes on that because of the complexity of it.

I would support public and private investment to increase solar power in Arizona only if it meets the test of economy and sustainability.

11. CLOSING STATEMENTS