



Election 2020: Candidate Surveys

Survey Parameters

Each election, the Arizona Farm Bureau surveys candidates who are running in races that are particularly important to Farm & Ranch Country. This year, we have selected a handful of districts to highlight prior to the 2020 Election on November 3, 2020. Each candidate listed below was asked to provide a 300-word answer to the following question:

As an Arizona Farm Bureau member, why should I cast my vote for you?

Submissions were not edited and have been reproduced here exactly as sent to Arizona Farm Bureau staff. For every race listed, all candidates who appear on the Arizona Secretary of State’s candidate list were emailed using the email on file for that candidate.

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As an Arizona Farm Bureau member, why should I cast my vote for you?

Senate Races

Legislative District 4

Lisa Otondo (D)

Lisa Otondo, a second generation Arizonan, was born and raised in Yuma and comes from a close-knit farming family. Otondo has served for 8 years in the Arizona Legislature. Currently, she is the Minority Senate Whip and serves on Appropriations, Agriculture and Water (Ranking Member), and Transportation and Public Safety Committees.



Otondo, a strong advocate for agriculture, is endorsed by the Ag Pac of the Arizona Farm Bureau. Her family has been involved in farming and sheepherding in Arizona for over 100 years. “Being a strong voice for agriculture is one of the main reasons that I ran for office. I don’t think most people understand the dangers, both physical and financial, that farmers face. My father lost his arm in a tractor accident in Buckeye when he was a young man. I remember some tough years for my family. Our farmers have faced e-coli issues, the recent disruption in the supply chain due to COVID-19 and the continued challenge of a shrinking labor pool,” Otondo said. “Farming is not for babies.”

Lisa’s focus on the critical water issues facing Arizona has made her one of the leading experts in water at the State Capitol. She was appointed by the Governor to the Drought Contingency Plan Steering Committee(DCP), the Governor’s Water Augmentation Council, the Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation and Conservation Council (GWAICC) and the Arizona Reconsultation Committee (ARC). She received a Special Recognition Award from the Az Chamber of Commerce for her work on the DCP and has also received numerous Champion Awards for her work at the Capitol. Otondo completed the year long Agri/Business Water Management Certificate Program at ASU and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in International Policy Studies and a Master’s in International Public Administration from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Travis Angry (R)

I was honored to join President Trump on Monday September 14th for his Latinos for Trump Roundtable Event in Phoenix, AZ. With the full support of the President and backers in the state legislature, including my votes representing the best interests Farmers and Farm related businesses in LD4, I believe The Arizona Farm Bureau will witness many changes for the better in Rural Arizona in the very near future. Quoting from The Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity: These are some of the recommendations that are needed to improve Rural Arizona:



- e-Connectivity
- Quality of Life
- Rural Workforce
- Technological Innovation
- Economic Development

I believe, reducing regulatory burdens and attracting private capital will support our ultimate mission of empowering Rural America to feed the world. While other sectors of the American economy have largely recovered from the Great Recession, rural America has lagged in almost every indicator.

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Expanding availability of high-speed internet or e-connectivity allows rural areas to take advantage of this new reality in addition to broader domestic and international markets. Unfortunately, rural areas remain less connected to reliable high-speed internet today than metropolitan areas and have lower usage rates compared with urban areas. Incentivize Private Capital Investment – Encourage free-market policies, laws, and structures at federal, state, tribal, and local government levels to create an environment conducive to investment, including public-private partnerships. Reduce Regulatory Barriers to Infrastructure Deployment – Revise federal regulations to encourage investment in reliable, high-speed internet in rural areas, expedite approval and internal review timelines and streamline permitting processes to promote increased build-out of infrastructure.

Objectives & Recommended Actions

- Connect Rural Skill Sets to Jobs of the Future
- Promote and Expand Apprenticeship Programs
- Connect Veterans to Underutilized Training Programs
- Improve Rural Access to Education and Training Objectives & Recommended Actions
- Access to Capital
- Equity Financing
- Debt Financing
- Bundle/Repackage Projects and Deals
- Regional and State Collaboration

Since declaring my candidacy, I have taken many trips to the rural areas of LD4 and have heard from many of you. Water rights, 2 nd Amendment Gun Rights and Border Security are the 3 most frequently asked questions. Later this month, and into October I will be conducting Rural Roundtable Meetings and Town Hall Events to listen to more of the needs of LD4's important Rural Economy.

In closing, I have offered some ideas, but what would help me better represent The Arizona Farm Bureau would be for you to share with me exactly how I may be of service to The AFB. I would enjoy the opportunity to meet with the Bureau to find out more about how my office can best serve you. I am prepared to do a deeper dive into each subject, but I knew I had a content limit. My thanks for allowing me to share with you many of the exciting and productive improvements planned for Rural Arizona. With my votes, and my strong support and relationship with President Trump, I honestly believe I have skills to help put LD4 and Arizona in the forefront of these changes, investments, and improvements in the very near future.

Arizona Farm Bureau did not receive responses from: Gary Snyder (I, Write-In)

Legislative District 6

Wendy Rogers (R)

The term “rugged individualism” comes to mind when I think of Arizona agriculture and the people who grow our food and fiber we need for our daily lives. The freedom and worth of each individual forged by past generations are reflected in our farm and ranch families. You are heroic and in Arizona with its huge urban centers, it is important that you are represented by champions at the state legislature. I will be that champion. There's also the term, “family values.” These words are often bandied about, but among Farm Bureau members, they are lived every single day. I share these timeless



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values. Values of life, liberty and property. Values of faith, family and country. Those values will not change. I took a lifelong oath to defend them when I joined the Air Force decades ago.

You face a myriad of issues:

Land Use: I support the preservation of agricultural land, multiple use and no-net loss of private land.

Water: Agriculture needs water. I will fight to protect your water rights.

Estate Taxes: Farms and ranches must be allowed to pass down to the next generation without confiscation-by-death taxes.

Property Rights: Private ownership of property is a constitutional right.

Forest and Watershed Management: Mismanagement has been catastrophic. I will fight to improve and take care of our forests and water, as well as our small businesses, keep regulations in check, and resolve urban-rural conflicts, and delve into many other serious policy issues.

On these and every other concern you face now or in the future, my door is open to learn from you, to stand firmly on our shared values and to represent this rural district where agriculture is so vital. I will work 24/7 with the integrity and responsibility you'd expect from your state senator.

Arizona Farm Bureau did not receive responses from: Felicia French (D)

Legislative District 8

Barbara McGuire (D)

My mother was a farm worker and would be out in the cotton fields from sunup to sundown helping the rest of the family earn enough to put food on the table. As a young girl, I helped my uncle on his farm in Coolidge where he raised cotton and I helped round up cattle on the Gila with my grandpa.

I know the importance of farming in Arizona and I also know water is precious. Which is why I introduced water rights legislation in 2016 to help provide much needed relief to the farming community in LD 8 and Arizona.



GOP leadership at the time decided it would be a better idea to kick the can down the road and establish a study committee.

I'm concerned that certain Republicans would rather offer the water to developers than protect our way of life.

Protecting farming is core to our sustainability and survival as a country.

Water use and management policies need to be reviewed yearly to implement best use practices. I am currently advocating for farming by serving on the WNRCD Conservation District Board, but I know I could do much more if sent back to the State Senate.

I was proud to be a member and represent the Farm Bureau during my time at the legislature and I

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would be honored to have your support and the opportunity to once again fight for and put the needs of farmers and the farming community first.

I will make your voice heard. I am an experienced legislator with established relationships on both sides of the aisle. My legislation has been signed by both Democrat and Republican Governors. I have a proven track record of getting things done and I can get it done for our farmers.

TJ Shope (R)

There are many significant issues that face Arizona over the next several years. Some are new and others, like availability of water, stand the test of time in our desert climate. While Arizona has many things to be proud of in regards to water, we still need to be vigilant as we move in to the future. Continued drought conditions all across the western United States as well as overcrowded forests and invasive plant species which tax our water supply will continue to cause us to find creative solutions to the age-old issue of water scarcity.



In recent years, we have attempted to do our best with the passage of the Drought Contingency Plan but we all know, especially in Pinal County, that we have more to do for our irrigation districts and I have been working with them since its passage.

For those of us who have been here in Arizona for generations, we know that drought conditions ebb and flow so we need to be asking candidates for office what they will be doing to protect Arizona's share of water. We need to be investing and re-investing in agencies such as the Central Arizona Project and Arizona Department of Water Resources so that the best minds in Arizona can help our farmers & ranchers as well as developers ensure that there is enough water for everybody, especially those of us in Pinal County!

Our job as legislators is to see in to the future and develop policies that will stand the test of time. I'm honored to once again earn the endorsement of the AgPAC of the Arizona Farm Bureau for my 2020 State Senate campaign and based on our relationship that we've had in my time in the House, you know I won't let you down.

Legislative District 13

Sine Kerr (R)

It remains my greatest honor to serve and represent Legislative District 13, this incredible state, and my fellow agriculture producers. A vote for me for another term in the Arizona senate is a vote for strong, proven leadership and protection for Arizona's diverse and indispensable farming and ranching families. I am grateful and humbled to serve as the Chair of Water and Agriculture, and Vice-Chair of Natural Resources and Energy. I'm grateful that I'm in a place to protect our agriculture industry from harmful legislation and to also be a strong voice for good, positive legislation that moves our industry forward. I'm humbled because of the trust and confidence you've placed in me to take your concerns to heart and fiercely advocate on your behalf.



Being in the dairy business with my husband for forty years and my previous participation in AZ Farm Bureau's leadership positions and programs, has provided me the valuable knowledge and experience that is so helpful in understanding the complexities we face as an industry. From water, to labor, to

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managing our natural resources, I understand how delicate and critical the balance can be. A vote for me means you have a state senator who places you as a high priority, intently listens to your needs and is ready to take action. Navigating the obstacles during the early days of the COVID-19 shutdowns taught me just how important it is to have the strong relationships within our agriculture community, with other elected officials, and with state and federal agency partners to find solutions as quickly as possible in order to help farmers and ranchers adjust and pull through during those difficult days. As we continue to recover, I remain vigilant and ready to help in any way I can.

I greatly appreciate your continued support!

Brent Backus (R, Write-In)

I, Brent Backus, will fight for our liberty and will not be controlled by the establishment like the current incumbent. As a former soil and water conservation specialist I learned the importance in protecting America's soil and water, and the family farm.



Supports no marketing of AZ water out of State. *AZ water must stay in AZ.*

Supports protecting existing water rights. *Your water rights are your rights and cannot be taken away.*

Supports tax credits or low-cost loans for increasing efficiency and effectiveness of crop irrigation. *Modern irrigation technologies are costly to implement and maintain.*

Supports prohibiting Chinese investments and ownership of AZ agriculture operations and land. *The commies are not our friends.*

Supports the prohibition of cities regulating land outside their city boundaries and involuntary annexation of Ag lands. *AZ farm lands must be protected.*

Supports AZ managing our land and taking back our land from our squatters, the Federal government. *The Constitution states what lands the federal government can have.*

Supports restricting the Governors emergency actions (ARS 36-787). *There are no controls in place on the Governor's emergency powers-i.e., COVID shutdowns.*

Supports denying refugee resettlement's in AZ. *Governor has the sole authority to approve and it needs to be the legislature.*

Supports no AZ benefits for DACA recipients and illegals. *They are not citizens and deserve no tax payer benefits.*

Supports eliminating the current monopoly system for electric utilities. *Open up the free market.*

Supports not raising our gas tax and any other tax/fee. *Too many taxes now.*

Supports a ban on facial recognition technologies and to limit the unchecked use of drones for surveillance. *There are no laws governing police use of the technology, no standards ensuring its accuracy, and no systems checking for bias.*

Legislative District 14

Bob Karp (D)

Farming has particular importance in the rural parts of southeast Arizona that make up legislative district 14 which I hope to represent in the State Senate.

The agriculture industry in Arizona has a variety of elements, industrial farms, dairy farms, cotton growers, vineyards, fruit and nut farms, and smaller family farms and ranches. The incumbent has too often sided with large out-of-state agriculture interests which harm the interests of family farms. The water availability crisis has



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the potential for long term adverse effects on smaller farms, and ranches. While addressing these issues may seem to be “anti” agriculture, I believe it is essential to make sure that all agricultural interests are treated fairly with regulations that protect the most under-served users.

I also believe that your members want more than simply good agricultural policy. They want outstanding public schools, a rural healthcare system for their family and employees, infrastructure that makes their work easier and more efficient, a tax code that doesn’t favor special corporate interests.

This requires investment and a state government and elected officials that have a vision for the future that encourages economic growth while creating a fair economic system for all types of businesses in the agricultural industry. I promise that I will spend time to learn, will listen more than I speak, and represent everyone in my district with respect.

Arizona Farm Bureau did not receive responses from: David Gowan (R)

Legislative District 28

Kate Brophy-McGee (R)

Thank you, Arizona Farm Bureau.

You want someone who understands your issues. I’ve served on both the Ag & Water and Energy & Natural Resources committees. I’m a third generation Arizonan from a southern Arizona ranching family, and my family continues to farm and ranch today. I am an urban legislator who always looks out for rural interests.



As the education champion in this race, I have fought for, and won, over \$4.5 billion in new K-12 education dollars, including a 20% pay increase for Arizona teachers. I sponsored the successful legislative extension of Prop 301 (many thought this was impossible), which this provides more than \$800 million annually to schools. I believe parents are their children’s first and best teachers, and they have the right to choose the best educational setting for their children.

I opposed the terrible Steyer 2018 initiative, which would have brought California’s failed energy policies to Arizona. I don’t support doubling your utility bills.

I believe our small businesses are the backbone of our Arizona economy, and I do not support doubling your taxes or imposing California-style regulatory burdens and making it harder for you to feed your families.

I work every day building strong communities and safe neighborhoods and will NEVER support defunding the police.

You want an experienced, level-headed independent leader who knows how to work across the aisle, bring people together and solve complex problems with Arizona-centric solutions, who is NOT beholden to unions and other special interests.

You want a Senator who knows LD28 and Arizona issues, who works with her constituents and whose campaign is supported by Arizonans and employees of Arizona businesses, NOT by out of state special interests whose only goal is to flip our Senate and turn Arizona blue.

As an Arizona Farm Bureau member, why should I cast my vote for you?

For more information, visit www.katemcgee.com or email me – kate@katemcgee.com

Arizona Farm Bureau did not receive responses from: Christine Marsh (D)

House Races

Legislative District 4

Charlene Fernandez (D)

Growing up in Yuma, I understand when constituents feel like the capitol only represents Maricopa County, and rural Arizona is left out. My community is built on the hard work of thousands of farmers and agricultural workers. The state and country count on us to fill grocery stores and feed millions. You deserve a voice at the Arizona Capitol that reflects your needs and voice so you can continue to do this. I started my career in public service opening Congressman Ed Pastor's Yuma office, and later serving in Congressman Raul Grijalva and Governor Janet Napolitano's offices. I also served for 8 years on the Yuma Union High School Board.



Since my 2014 election to the Arizona House of Representatives, I've been one of the legislature's strongest advocates for public education, frequently pushing for more teacher and classroom funding from my position on the appropriations committee and as the House Democratic Caucus Leader.

A sustainable water supply is not only critical for farmers, but the entire southwest. I was proud to work across the aisle on the Drought Contingency Plan agreement in 2019. We brought states, farmers, tribal nations, and other stakeholders together to ensure a sustainable water supply for Arizona. We worked together to put the wellbeing of Arizonans over politics. I aim to continue this bipartisan work when I'm re-elected as well.

Quality healthcare is incredibly difficult to come by, and prioritize it by promoting affordable drug prices, protecting pre-existing conditions, and opposing junk insurance plans.

I hope to earn your support in my re-election to represent your voice at the Arizona Legislature. Please vote for me, Charlene Fernandez, for Arizona House of Representatives!

Geraldine Peten (D)

The agricultural industry grows all the products that support and sustain human life and it must be protected and sustained for the present and future existence of life on this planet. As legislators, we have the duty to create policies and statutes that enable the industry to expand and improve its methods, techniques and technology that utilizes the greatest efficiencies possible.



A means to this end is to create curriculums, programs, internships, and apprentices to prepare our students to enter this profession with marketable skills that provides them with livable wages for a high standard of living. My visits to dairy farms, produce fields, and a seed factory demonstrated the high level of science and technology required to operate these industries efficiently. Therefore, it is imperative that our educational system, in high school and in post-secondary institutions, provide incentives to recruit students into these programs.

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Restoring school to work programs that partner, and transition into fully funded community colleges is a viable route to support the agricultural industry. Revising the state's budget to fully fund community colleges and establish agricultural programs is a next step that I support. In conjunctions to this, I support school, community programs and extra-curriculum clubs that get students excited about doing what they are learning.

The agriculture industry offers a unique means by which it combines difficult subjects in a fun, relevant and sustainable ways. When you learn the techniques of biology, chemistry, technology, pest control, climatic principals, etc. of growing a field of lettuce that ships to market, you know you have earned a valuable position in the chain of life. With all of this said, I present myself as a worthy candidate for your vote in the upcoming election.

Joel John (GOP)

As a 4th generation Arizonan from an agricultural background who runs a small agricultural business and is a native to Legislative District 4, I'm uniquely qualified to represent the interests of the agricultural community in this district, and will be a great asset to agriculture in the legislature.



Having an agricultural background and working in the industry allows me to witness many of the benefits of Arizona Agriculture and prepares me to meet many of its challenges. I'm prepared to advocate for Arizona Agriculture because its benefits, and I'm prepared to help address its challenges.

Everyday I'm able to witness, first hand, the many benefits of Arizona Agriculture, such as its impact on the economy through the growth of a variety of crops, the creation of thousands of jobs, the creation of numerous other industries that support agriculture, and the impact, not just on the Arizona economy, but to numerous local economies throughout the district as well.

I also witness, every day, many of its challenges and I am ready to address them in support of agriculture. Those challenges include the necessity to protect agriculture's water in order to grow food for a growing population, the need to facilitate agriculture's access to labor, the need to protect private property rights, and the need to support technologies that increase crop yields and reduce inputs.

Every day as I work and travel throughout the district, I'm able to see the tremendous stewardship that our farmers demonstrate for our natural resources. Farmers are the best caretakers of the land, the water, their livestock, their crops, and their customers.

I look forward to being an advocate for Arizona Agriculture at the state legislature and appreciate your support.

Legislative District 6

Coral Evans (D)

My family has been in northern Arizona for over 100 years, I'm third generation and my daughter is fourth generation. I know that rural Arizona values agriculture and our way of life. I also know that water is essential in these industries. One of the reasons I am running is to make sure we can work to conserve water for our future generations. I have led the efforts to promote water conservation in

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Flagstaff. I have also been outspoken on the danger of uranium mining and the contamination of our water. I believe ranchers and farmers understand first hand the need for responsible water policy because they deal with it daily. I believe we need to make sure that LD6 farmers and ranchers have a seat at the table when it comes to water policy.

As a small business owner I understand the difficulty and hard work that goes into owning your own business. I believe that the state of Arizona should prioritize helping our local small businesses over big Phoenix corporations. This includes the small agricultural businesses that have had such an incredible impact on the economy in the Verde Valley. These farms and vineyards have built an industry that is bringing millions into the economy and offering jobs and opportunities for young people who want to stay in rural Arizona. Furthermore, they need the flexibility to grow, which leads me to my third point, local control.

As a local elected official I know that local communities need the ability to make policy that makes sense for them. For far too long the Arizona legislature has restricted cities, towns, and counties from implementing policy that corporate lobbyists disagree with. Whether it is vacation rentals or development, the legislature ties our hands. I will lead the fight to return local control to rural Arizona

Walter Blackman (R)

It's an honor to serve as your state representative. Instead of writing what I will do, I'll tell what I've done as your current state representative. I have work on improving and protecting agriculture's access to water with farmers to ensure the watershed is protected. I've voted for and sponsors for farmers who are hit hard with increased taxes to decrease our farmers' tax burdens. I have work on easing the amount of taxes our farmers have to pay. We did this by determining the year-to-date income before the end of the year and planning for an appropriate income level for tax savings. By maintaining level income versus having large income swings, those who farm will pay less tax over time due to the graduated income tax rates. Most farmers are on a cash basis, so managing income is more accessible than for most taxpayers. We need to improve on removing burdens to transportation. I will work on ways to bring the Livestock Loss Board under the Department of Agriculture purview to provide more meaningful opportunities for compensating and mitigating the damage that predators cause to our livestock herds. Big government is not what we need to interfere with our daily lives. We need to look for ways to reduced big government in the farming industries as well.



Additionally, I will continue to fight for meaningful reforms to the Endangered Species Act. (AZFB p. 38-44) I serve on the State and International Affairs committee. I will continue to work with our congressional delegation and work on ways to urge the swift ratification of the US Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) and other free trade agreements. (AFBF § 252). And finally, I believe in industry fairness; I will work with Congress to ensure that regulatory agencies like the FDA do not overstep the bounds of their authority during an investigation. I am asking for your vote and your support for continued work on your behalf.

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Art Babbott (I)

I founded, own and operate the Flagstaff Community Markets, one of the most successful farm-to-market operations in the state of Arizona. We are a mission-driven market whose purpose is to support and expand the number of independent and family-owned farms in northern Arizona. After twenty years of building relationships with these proud and productive families and their workers, I have a deep understanding of and appreciation for their challenges and opportunities. Just as we look to the next generation of growers and producers to cultivate our crops, so too must we cultivate the agricultural opportunities for the next generation. I know the regulatory barriers that negatively impact small ag, including the Food Safety and Modernization Act and Food Code. Time and time again, it is the small producer who gets the short end of the stick. I have fought against a one-size-fits-all regulatory approach and led county efforts on agricultural regulatory reform. From guaranteeing farm-to-market sales, to preventing unnecessary food code regulations on farms, to expanded agricultural entitlements in land use code, I have consistently advocated for the interests of independently owned and operated farms and ranches. I am running for the Arizona House of Representatives as an Independent because hyper-partisan party politics is not getting the job done. I can fight for the small grower and producer because I am not bought and paid for like so many party politicians. Instead, I build trusted and respected relationships, solve problems, and remember who pays my salary -- taxpayers, local businesses, their families, and their hard-working employees. The same cast of characters and their special party privileges which got us into our current political mess is not going to get us out of it. If you want politics done differently in Arizona, send someone different to do it.



Arizona Farm Bureau did not receive responses from: Brenda Barton (R)

Legislative District 7

James "Jim" Parks (R)

My ancestors were farmers, ranchers, and blacksmiths for multiple generations. In 1942, my parents bought 160 acres of bare desert land in Deer Valley and began developing a cotton farm there right after World War II, with a steel wheeled tractor, a borrowed plow, and a cotton trailer made from a Model T truck. I learned to drive at age 12 on an old "popping Johnny" tractor, spreading manure on fields after cleaning horse stalls. My first paying jobs were picking cotton by hand, and chopping cotton with a hoe that was longer than I was tall.



Agriculture was not only my occupation and livelihood for most all of my life, it is in my blood.

As a long time Farm Bureau member, I began my life as a working cowboy shortly after returning from the U.S. Navy at the end of the Vietnam War, learning the ways of horses and cattle while working on ranches all over Arizona for the next 38 years. I was a board member and later, President of the Coconino County Farm Bureau and Cattle Growers Association for many years and sat on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Farm Bureau. I am still an active member of the Board of CCFB&CGA.

I am a proven fighter for Arizona Agriculture at the state level and in Washington D.C., culminating with leading the Arizona Farm Bureau, Arizona Cattle Growers, and the ranchers of Arizona, in the battle to stop the takeover of 1.7 million acres of ranch land in the Arizona Strip by environmentalists and government in the defunct "Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument" fiasco, which WE WON!

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The winning of this battle led to my selection as Rancher of the Year for Arizona Farm Bureau in 2015. So, if you want a fighter, Send a Cowboy to the Legislature!

David Peelman (R)

Early experiences are lasting, and the water to the clay that builds the individual. The earliest of these are memories of my grandfather's cotton and watermelon ranch in Lemitar, New Mexico. As a child not even enrolled in school, my chores were the safer farm jobs such as caring for the chickens, cleaning coops, and hauling water. As a 10-year-old, my first 'paying' job of working for another was picking tomatoes in the fields of San Joaquin Valley.



These experiences and others formed the foundation of my values and problem solving. A fair day's labor for a fair day's pay; do it right the first time; waste not, want not; and, honesty is the best policy were learned in the fields and orchards I worked, and are more than wise idioms. These words remain with me as I tackle greater and more complicated issues. Arizona farmers and ranchers are facing many of the same issues of those that have gone before them, and some new ones. Water is paramount to life and agriculture. With more than 200 people moving to Arizona every day, it is becoming more so – especially for farmers and ranchers producing the food necessary to feed a growing population. It only makes sense to grow and produce agriculture products at home, reducing transportation costs, spoilage, vital resources for all of our economy and employing Arizonans. We need to ensure water and other resources are economically available to bring the harvest to market, and provide sufficient reward to the ranchers and farmers.

I make no contention I have all the answers. I will work with all who share the goal of making ranching and farming safer, more economically viable and productive, and very importantly incentivizing our youth to continue the proud tradition of ranching and farming.

Arizona Farm Bureau did not receive responses from: Arlando Teller (D), Myron Tsosie (D)

Legislative District 11

Mark Finchem (R)

Thank you for the opportunity. As a longtime Aggie myself, I understand the challenges of both farming and ranching. That is why I was proud to support AG friendly relief for Pinal and Pima County's AG water users. I sponsored a bill for Councilman John Post, commonly known at the Capitol as the "Punkin Patch" that blocked onerous regulation by county and municipal governments for agricultural attractions. If we don't let it, we have to grow it and that is why I am always ready to support Legislation the helps agriculture perform. Our job as legislators is to keep regulation to the lightest touch necessary to protect Our food chain



Arizona Farm Bureau did not receive responses from: Bret Roberts (R), Felipe Perez (D), Wade Murphy (R, Write-In)

As an Arizona Farm Bureau member, why should I cast my vote for you?

Legislative District 13

Tim Dunn (R)

Arizona Farm Bureau's members have a unique opportunity to support an active Farmer in this Election. I have served your organization in the past as First Vice President and know first hand the struggles Arizona's farmers and Ranchers face on a daily basis. I believe my record over the past three years has shown that I have been an advocate for Rural Arizona. I pride myself on listening to and engaging with my constituents and in this case it extends out past my legislative district to all of Arizona's agricultural community. I am currently Chairman of the Land and Agriculture committee and Vice Chairman of the Energy and Water Committee. With the help of Arizona Farm Bureau's membership engagement in this election I hope we can keep a Republican majority whereas I can remain in those positions. I have been engaged with the Governor's office during this Covid pandemic working to get our economy going. As we look to the future a focus on food security and reliability in our Arizona based food supply chain system will be a priority. Sound Water policy for Agricultural and rural Arizona is paramount. I am committed to promoting fiscally conservative policies while upholding the constitution and the rule of law. Our country is at a crossroads and we need to elect candidates at every level that will stand and fight for our freedom and the constitution. This election is not about the individual but about the policy that they support. The two choices are very different directions that our country and state will head down. I humbly ask for your support.



Joanne Osborne (R)

I have had the pleasure of representing Legislative District 13 for the past two years. Having the incredible agriculture community of Yuma, has been an honor and highlight to my term. I have had the privilege of serving on the state Land and Agriculture Committee and have heard of many issues that negatively and positively affect Agriculture and our Natural Resources.



We all know, even with the passing of the Drought Contingency Plan, which I voted for, Water will always be a top priority not only to the state, but definitely to agriculture! Another top of mind topic is of course Covid19. The hardworking "essential" workers that will be needed for harvest, process and distribution will be critical in the coming months. I continue to advocate for Rural Broadband and helping where I can with the Food Supply Chain. Farm – Distribution – Transportation – Grocery Store –

As your elected official, being a conduit for communication is critical. I know it is cliché, but we truly are all in this together. I've done what I can in participating in weekly Zoom meetings with the Yuma sector – hearing about Covid and Border issues, plus I am always close by listening and speaking with the farmers and ranchers themselves. I have also for many years recognized and supported the Future Farmer and am the proud mother of a former FFA State Officer.

I am a 4th Generation Arizona Native, 30 year Small Business Owner, and mother of four. I understand the issues small business owners face, even when we have differing industries. I have always had the desire for The Highest Quality of Life for our families and businesses. When we strive for that first, we then prioritize the ways to achieve it, under that umbrella. I ask for your vote and thank you for your time.

As an Arizona Farm Bureau member, why should I cast my vote for you?

Arizona Farm Bureau did not receive responses from: Mariana Sandoval (D)

Legislative District 14

Ronnie Maestas-Condos (D)

30 years ago I made a decision to pick up roots from a coastal community in Central California and seek out an uncertain future in the high desert grasslands of southeast Arizona. Not quite sure what was drawing me to a more remote, less populated region of our country, but once arriving, it felt like homecoming. I ended up buying 8 acres of land with my spouse to build a home made of mud, straw, and lumber framing (still under construction!). I live 5 miles from the mighty San Pedro and 7 miles north of our neighbors to the south. I have felt an awe and reverence for the land I call home but am becoming concerned for a way of life that is increasingly under threat of disappearing. The wide open spaces are getting swallowed up with encroaching, inadequately planned developments, the lack of protections or regulations of our scarce resources like water is putting the viability of ranching at risk, the lack of jobs and training and investments in rural communities is necessitating the exodus of youth and talent to big cities, very sad. I believe we have options and can turn this trend around. After electing a new legislature we will focus on prioritizing the needs of people who have been traumatically affected by the pandemic. I believe rural and ranching communities, which are an integral component of our local economy have been doubly impacted as far as being sustainable and providing a livelihood for families. The pandemic has caused serious setbacks for many working people. We need new blood willing to put ordinary people's needs first before special and corporate interests. Please consider a vote for me Ronnie Maestas-Condos for Ariz House to get us back on the right track. Thank you.



Gail Griffin (R)

Legislative District 14 needs a strong voice at the capital for rural Arizona.

I am that voice and I have the leadership skills and experience to continue to be that voice.

JOBS and the Economic Stability of our state and local communities is high priority.

I believe in **limited government, lower taxes, personal responsibility** and in the **free enterprise system.**

I believe we have a duty and responsibility to **Secure our Borders** and enforce our laws to protect the citizens of Arizona. Border Security is National Security.

Other important issues include the **Protection of Private Property and Water Rights.**

I want to see **Education Excellence**, ensuring taxpayer dollars make it into the classroom to help students and teachers **improve academic achievement.**

I will continue to **fight for Veterans Issues.**

I am a **successful businesswoman. I am Pro-Business, Pro-Taxpayer, Pro-Family and Pro-Constitution.**

I am a Life Member of the NRA. I am a member of the Arizona Farm Bureau and the Arizona Cattlegrowers and other organizations that believe in supporting our Natural Resource Industries.



As an Arizona Farm Bureau member, why should I cast my vote for you?

I have been the recipient of Legislator of the Year from Rural Health Association and other similar Awards from National Association of Independent Business (NFIB) and Arizona March of Dimes. I will continue to WORK FOR YOU.

Thank you for your support and your VOTE on November 3rd.

Becky Nutt (R)

As a Farm Bureau member you support rural, its value system and lifestyle. You understand the need for a good education system, access to healthcare, the ability for rural dwellers to work and provide for their family and to live safely doing so. It is a good lifestyle, hard, but good---and we are losing it. There is a tear in the seam, and we are leaking young people.



What pushes me is plugging and permanently sealing such leakage. Essential to this is creating the opportunity for the youth stay in their community and one day raise their own families. They need an education that offers the tools for them to live a prosperous and productive life as they are trained in careers they want to pursue. As we grow our local economies and creating jobs we are giving our youth a choice and helping others to pursue their dreams.

Building rural is why I ran for office, what I think about and plan for while in session, and what I work on when out of session. It is not just that I represent rural, but I have lived in just about every aspect of rural from just outside a large metropolitan to totally off the grid. I understand rural, the people, our needs, and our possibilities. And as an Arizona Farm Bureau member, this why you should cast your vote for me. Also, please know that your support is always needed and very much appreciated! Thank you!

Arizona Farm Bureau did not receive responses from: Kimberly Beach-Moschetti (D), Joshua Hampton (D, Write-In)

Legislative District 20

Shawna Bolick (R)

As a freshman legislator, I served as the Vice Chairman of Ways and Means, and a Member on both the Elections and Federal Relations committees. When I ran for this position in 2018, no one could have predicted the Legislature would help simplify the state's tax code in 2019, or how we would need to respond to the crises related to COVID-19 in 2020.

In my two years at the Legislature, it was my honor to support many Arizona Farm Bureau backed bills, including



- Voting to pass the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) along with an appropriation to prepare Arizona for Colorado River shortages, as well as, ensuring that all irrigation districts identified in the DCP are eligible to receive the resources allocated to them;
- Clarifying the tax exemption on fertilizer;
- Funding to construct and rehabilitate wells and infrastructure necessary to support water management efforts benefiting farmers and ranchers;
- Funding to hire additional dairy inspectors, ensuring that Arizona's dairyman can meet increased marked production demand;

As an Arizona Farm Bureau member, why should I cast my vote for you?

- Funding to construct a cold inspection facility at the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales;
- Reclassification of two agricultural real property to further Arizona's growing agritourism market;
- Creating a grant program with funding for the removal of non-native invasive vegetation;
- Promoting locally grown products, ensuring a high-quality standard, certification, inspection and grading services for Arizona-produced eggs; and
- Accelerating the timeframe to adopt rules regulating the licensure, production, and management of industrial hemp.

I am committed to helping Arizona's economy regain its footing by putting people back to work so we can thrive again. I will continue to fight to keep small businesses alive. Fortunately, earlier this year we passed a responsible budget reflecting our new fiscal realities. Please visit my website to learn more about my campaign at www.BolickforArizona.com.

Arizona Farm Bureau did not receive responses from: Anthony Kern (R), Judy Schweibert (D)

Legislative District 21

Beverly Pingerelli (R)

Arizona agriculture is a thriving industry contributing over \$23 billion to our economy and providing over 138,000 jobs. Farming and ranching is an important part of our state's heritage, predating our statehood, and integral to our Southwestern lifestyle. Modern development and population growth, however, present new challenges for this essential industry that is heavily dependent on predictable water supplies. We must meet these challenges by addressing sustainability, equitable distribution, conservation and long-term resource planning to promote farm industry growth. We must also ensure a robust workforce with the skills and specialized training critical to a science-based industry. As a Peoria Unified School District governing board member, I have worked diligently for expanded Career Technical Education (CTE) and Vocational training opportunities in our schools. Our programs include agricultural training and biotechnology, and if elected to the House of Representatives, I hope to continue expanding these CTE programs across the state. I'm also committed to ensuring the Arizona agriculture industry is provided with the resources critical to its longevity and continued growth. By developing clear objectives and using sound science, I believe the farm industry can expand the vital play role it plays in our state's economy, our land and wildlife management policies, and our water conservation strategies. I look forward to working with the Arizona Farm Bureau to develop strategies and policies that benefit farmers, ranchers and the citizens of Arizona.



Kathy Knecht (D)

I am Kathy Knecht and I'm running for the Arizona House in LD21. I am a former school teacher, 12 year school board member, and a Past President of the Arizona School Boards Association. I ran Leadership West, a regional, non-profit leadership development corporation, and I am committed to serving our local community and growing a strong economy for Arizona. I've dedicated my life to public service—serving on dozens of non-profit boards addressing economic development, the arts, senior issues, and domestic violence. I was an Honorary Commander at Luke Air Force Base, and continue to regularly volunteer there. I've always been an independent thinker and a bipartisan leader. I'm focused on strengthening our schools; ensuring our seniors and families have affordable quality healthcare and lowering the cost of



As an Arizona Farm Bureau member, why should I cast my vote for you?

prescription drugs; and bringing high-paying jobs to Arizona. We need to improve K12 and higher education and transportation and water infrastructure across the state. I seek to work with leaders and stakeholders in a non-partisan way to find solutions to the problems we face as a state.

The challenges Arizona is facing today are too great to spend time bickering over partisan labels. I don't buy into the idea that if one side wins, then the other side has to lose. An all-or-nothing mentality has divided our neighborhoods and prevented us from finding solutions for everyone. As a practiced pragmatist, I am focused on common sense solutions and finding common ground. I seek pathways where everyone can win because I know the government works best when everyone has a seat at the table. Balanced government creates more effective conversations, better budgets, and stronger outcomes for everyone. Learn more about our campaign at electknecht.org.

Arizona Farm Bureau did not receive responses from: Kevin Payne (R)