

## **Education Showdown – Candidate Questions**

1. When the school year started this year, there were at least 2,041 classrooms without a permanent, qualified teacher. The Learning Policy Institute just named Arizona as the least attractive state for hiring teachers, largely due to working conditions and compensation. What policies do you support to address this issue and enable public schools to hire, retain and support teachers?
2. Governor Ducey has said that Proposition 123 was the “first step” in addressing shortfalls in the K-12 system. What are your ideas for the “next steps” and what role will you play in building and sustaining the K-12 system?
3. Tell me one thing the state should do to ensure public schools are held accountable.
4. If you support more funding for education, how do you propose paying for it?
5. Tell me one thing the state should do to ensure there is accountability for Empowerment Scholarship Accounts.
6. Do you support updating and/or renewing Proposition 301, which provides \$550 million to K-12 annually through a sales tax and is set to expire in 2021?
7. Since the mid-1990s, Arizona has consistently cut taxes, and tax cuts passed since 2009 will reduce general fund collections by roughly \$900 million each year when they are fully phased in. Governor Ducey and others have advocated for completely eliminating the state’s income tax, which brings in about 40 percent of state revenues. How would you balance tax policy and education funding if you are elected?
8. The corporate private school tax credits automatically increase by 20 percent each year, regardless of student growth, inflation or other factors. Is that good public policy?
9. Tell me one thing you would do to increase early education options for Arizona children, particularly those who come from low-income families.