

Chandler Education Association/ Valley Interfaith Project: SPI Candidate Forum- 1/30/18

Questions	Stacie Banks (I)	Bob Branch (R)	Diane Douglas (R)	Jonathan Gelbart (R)	Kathy Hoffman (D)	Tracy Livingston (R)	Frank Riggs (R)	David Schapira (D)
How would you vote on Prop 305 and why? (Yes- uphold voucher expansion bill; No- Overturn Voucher expansion bill)	No! -Bad policy -In-run on Constitution -No accountability on how money is spent.	Yes! Need to fix schools first.	Neutral claims she cannot answer questions since she runs the program at ADE. Believes it won't make it to ballot due to verification process of petition signatures.	Yes! Should be run as limited scope pilot program which SPI would manage and control.	No! Public schools will lose because of vouchers.	Yes! It all about choices. Concerned about religious schools receiving voucher money.	Yes! But be transparent and accountable	No! Stop all vouchers. Not enough \$\$ for private schools for a student to attend.
How would you ensure our schools are evaluated in an equitable manner? (A-F grading system)	Cannot wrap a school into one letter grade. Continue to compare with I test, however.	Need PhD teacher like myself to run assessment program. Current system unfair.	A-F not good measure. Comprehensive report card for parents on growth and proficiency is better.	What's the goal of letter grade? It needs to be a clear indicator for parents and schools to judge themselves.	A-F is only based on test scores and it is especially unfair to poor schools or Title 1. Need more funding for this problem.	Free schools from A-F with "Menu of Assessments." No teaching to the test and wasting class time.	A-F system is truly nonsense! ELL, Title 1 and Native American school are most damaged with this system.	Root goal of A-F is to label publicly funded schools and move more children to Charter schools. How to track and maintain great teachers? Grades can be determined pretty accurately already by zip code.



Chandler Education Association/ Valley Interfaith Project: SPI Candidate Forum- 1/30/18

Questions	Stacie Banks (I)	Bob Branch (R)	Diane Douglas (R)	Jonathan Gelbart (R)	Kathy Hoffman (D)	Tracy Livingston (R)	Frank Riggs (R)	David Schapira (D)
How can our state provide sustained funding to ensure a quality public education doe all Arizona students (1 million less in funding now than 2008)	Too many corporate tax cuts. I would have excise tax on APS/SRP to raise funding. Sales tax is not best way.	Get rid of the federal DOE! Money is already there. Use dollars better, and we receive only 75% of federal dollars back that we send to the feds. We have 77% of our schools as Title 1 schools.	We are “middle of the road” as compared to other states in education funding based upon “cost of living.” I would extend Prop 301- sales tax funding. I would increase excess taxes for an additional revenue source.	I would look for new revenue sources. I have a 5yr plan to restore all funding to 2008 levels.	I would stop the education vouchers. More money needs to be raised through taxes!	I would increase sales taxes by 50%. Right now, 43% of the Arizona General Fund goes to education. I would lobby legislature, Governor and businesses for more revenue sources. I would be a voice of reason for education funding since I’m a former teacher!	We have 1 billion lower in our general fund as compared to 2008. We need to look at inflation and population growth. While in Congress I wrote legislation, that President Clinton vetoed, that would ensure 95 cents of every dollar went into the classroom- through education block grants. Same plan for SPI.	I am a resident teacher historian. I would close tax loopholes and increase corporate taxes. I would demand more funding from the legislature.



Chandler Education Association/ Valley Interfaith Project: SPI Candidate Forum- 1/30/18

Questions	Stacie Banks (I)	Bob Branch (R)	Diane Douglas (R)	Jonathan Gelbart (R)	Kathy Hoffman (D)	Tracy Livingston (R)	Frank Riggs (R)	David Schapira (D)
How would you help ensure that all Arizona classrooms are led by a highly-qualified teacher?	The teacher is #1. They are leaving due to low salaries and working conditions. Get rid of the test scores for children and teachers.	Keep federal funds and do not be a donor state (bring back 25 cents of every dollar). It's a respect issue and it's a slap in the face that the Governor's office and legislature have lowered the bar for teachers.	There is a shortage of teachers who want to be in the classroom. Standards to become a teacher- bar lowered- are now gone. Must have teachers who are experts in subject matter and pedagogy.	Salaries and working conditions are why we have a shortage of teachers. They are not supported by administration. I would use "team teach" model from ASU.	Bar lowered so anyone can be a teacher. I would fully fund until salaries are decent and are competitive. Make sure teachers have full support staff.	Teachers leaving due to working conditions in the classroom. Allow the teachers to teach. Teacher are phenomenal despite conditions. I support the "lowered bar" for individuals to become teachers.	I have business experience and connections to raise funding for teachers. I think Arizona Teachers' Academy program by Governor a good idea. I think mid-career professionals should be teacher mentors. We are not paying teachers enough is why they are leaving. Increased teacher pay is my #1 priority.	There are currently 2,000 vacant teacher positions in AZ. I'm currently a Tempe City Councilman and we have programs in Tempe helping teachers. There is a "teacher respect" crises by lowering the bar in Arizona. We need pedological professionals in every classroom not just CTE certified.



Chandler Education Association/ Valley Interfaith Project: SPI Candidate Forum- 1/30/18

Questions	Stacie Banks (I)	Bob Branch (R)	Diane Douglas (R)	Jonathan Gelbart (R)	Kathy Hoffman (D)	Tracy Livingston (R)	Frank Riggs (R)	David Schapira (D)
In closing, why are you the best candidate to lead Arizona's public education system?	I've been a teacher for 10 yrs. In 41 states the SPI is non-partisan and I am the only Independent candidate. All I care about are the kids not you!	My biggest influence was my mother. I have lots of experience in education as the Dean of Education Technology at Liberty and a PhD teacher who is training teachers at GCU.	I released the state from the Common Core federal copyright as I promised when I was elected. I brought in new Arizona standards and replaced Common Core. We will be releasing new History and Science Standard in the Spring. I'm the candidate who you can see what she has done while in office.	I have a broad vision of what's possible in education in Arizona. I can bring into our state what no other state is doing- NexGen school system (Tesla vs. the Model T). I would bring new pilot programs to schools.	I decided to run for this office as soon as I heard Besty Devos would be new chairman of DOE. I would fight for competitive teacher pay. I would expand bilingual programs. I would invest in our schools with more funding.	I want your vote because I am a former teacher and I know firsthand the support that is needed in the classroom by a teacher. I am proud I have never been an administrator. I am a legislator's wife- L22, David Livingston. I have school board experience in Peoria and on the Maricopa County School Board of Supervisors.	I am the most qualified executive at the federal and state level. I have legislative smarts and I have the ability to influence policy in a competent way. I will be an ethical SPI.	I have 6yr and 7yr old daughters so I have a vested interest being SPI. Both my wife and I are educators. I was the Ranking democrat when I served on the Senate Education Committee. I would bring incremental change. Too many schools are on "life support" and will die if we continue on same path!

