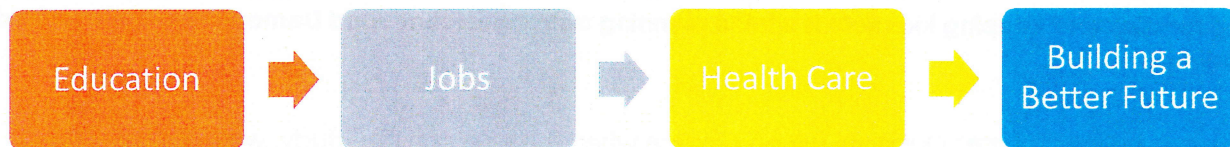


# 2017 DEMOCRATIC PRIORITIES

**Democrats are working together to build a state reflective of community values.** Our Arizona is inclusive, prosperous and, at the same time, fiscally responsible. Democrats will continue to champion opportunity, equity and fairness. As representatives of the people, Democrats are committed to investing in policies that will improve our quality of life now, while promoting a stronger, more sustainable future.

Democrats will support programs and policies that bring money into our state and create a solid foundation for Arizonans. These changes start by focusing on **education, jobs, health care and building a better future.**



**Education:** Investing in public education, including **K-12 schools and universities**, is critical to changing the trajectory of the state. Democrats will prioritize efforts to:

- ✓ Reduce class sizes
- ✓ Address the teacher shortage problem
- ✓ Develop long-term budget solutions that will get our schools the resources they need

**Democrats support renewing Prop. 301 before 2021 and increasing the sales tax dedicated to public education to a full one cent.**

- ✓ This would result in an additional \$430 million annually in funding for K-12.
- ✓ This money could be used to recruit and retain teachers and fund schools.

**This is a matter of putting resources behind our priorities.**

- ✓ Currently, an average of \$23,826 is spent annually to house a prisoner in Arizona.
- ✓ Only \$4,500 in state funding is spent on average to educate a K-12 student and just \$5,300 is spent on resident students in higher education.

Sentencing and correction reform efforts would save the state money and give more to universities and community colleges. **We should invest in education, not incarceration.**

**Jobs:** Democrats have long supported common-sense ideas for getting people back to work. Recovery from the recession has been a slow process here, and we are still struggling. At the same time, the state's critical infrastructure including roads and bridges are falling into disrepair. **Republicans have swiped about \$800 million from the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) since 2009, affecting the state's ability to maintain highways.** We propose:

- ✓ Protecting HURF now.
- ✓ Restoring funding cuts incrementally.

**This will create jobs and improve the quality of life of people all over the state.**

**Health Care:** Democrats will defend the progress made in Arizonans' access to health care – including access to behavioral and women's health care. **We will protect Medicaid expansion and KidsCare so that:**

- ✓ Thousands of Arizonans will keep access to health care.
- ✓ Arizona continues to benefit while bringing millions of dollars into the state.

**Democrats will also work to restore Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.**

Republicans cut TANF benefits in half. This left 955 families—and their 1,660 children—with less money to put food on the table and with fewer resources to get the job training and skills needed to move them out of poverty and prevent crisis. **Restoring TANF benefits to 24 months will strengthen a social safety net that is good for the entire state.**

**Democrats will continue to demand accountability Arizona's child welfare system.** After reform efforts and additional resources, this system continues to struggle with:

- ✓ High caseloads
- ✓ Staff turnover
- ✓ Lagging responsiveness

**Helping families and keeping kids safe is vital to planning a stronger future, and Democrats are committed to this goal.**

**Building a better future:** Our state will be a place where people can live, study, work and play for generations. To ensure our future is better, we must protect our:

- ✓ Forests
- ✓ Air
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Cultural heritage

**That requires us to be responsible stewards of our state's resources, both natural and financial.** We will promote ideas and policies that protect our environment and resources. Tax reform, including a review of the return on investment from credits, is a part of good stewardship of state resources. **This is what the people of Arizona have said they expect from their representatives, and that is what Democrats will deliver.**

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**Our** state is fighting to recover from failed leadership and policies that have jeopardized our future. For decades, Republican leaders have prioritized special interests, favoring them with tax cuts and not requiring accountability, transparency or a return on the investment of tax dollars. At the same time, our schools are suffering, infrastructure is declining, families are facing crisis and our access to health care is under constant threat.

**If the leaders in the last decade had put the state first**, instead of buckling to special interests, we would have an additional **\$835 million** this year to invest in our state now and for the future. It is time to draw the line on special interest tax cuts. **Democrats will prioritize people over politics, and we will continue to build a future that is equitable and fair.**