

CC&Y 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Sylvia Tenney Allen

Office: AZ Senate Dist 6

1. What do you think the two most pressing issues are for youth and their families?

Finding a way to help Parents with their responsibility for their children. We have too many of our precious children in foster care and who need a home where they can grow and thrive. Drug addiction problems are touching every family. The high cost of living is causing homelessness. I carried a bill last session to increase the Lottery Bucket for homelessness to try and address this issue.

2. What do you believe the role of elected officials is in their communities when it comes to serving and advocating for children and youth?

Evaluating programs that really work and then helping those programs succeed. I am a big fan of CTE programs in our schools. Industries are telling us they are in desperate need of educated and trained individuals. MY bill SB1269 would have restored funding to 9th grade CTED programs.

This last session I helped Yavapai County Sheriff Office with their Reach Out program and secured funding for their three year pilot program. The Reach Out Program, has a statewide vision to de-criminalize those with mental health conditions and get them to the resources and treatment they need rather than incarceration. More efforts on the front end of the criminal justice system, lessens the likelihood of jail and prison.

3. Within the duties of your elected office, how can you support the children and families of our community? If elected, how will this be expressed in your agenda?

Our main responsibility is to create a budget each year from the hard earn tax dollars of our citizens. Our economy is thriving and growing which has allowed us to increase new education dollars of over \$1.2 billion. We have been able to increase funding this year for our providers of the mentally and physically challenged adults. Which, I was one of the Senators who pushed hard for those provider dollars. I will work to protect our economy by not raising taxes or increase regulations that hampers our economic growth. More jobs have been created these last three years which have blessed families.

4. How would you as an elected official, support an equitable school system for ALL students cradle to career? As 90% of human brain development happens by age 5, please additionally share your thoughts on early childhood education and its role in the educational system.

I raised five children and I have 19 grandchildren so I understand the development of children. They develop at different rates and learn in different ways. First and foremost we must educate and encourage parents to work with their young children and help them get ready for school, through loving play and interaction. The curriculum offered at school is very important that it stimulates and allows these young children to learn through play. That is why I ran a bill, SB1082, that was passed and signed that instructed schools to have this type of curriculum for Kindergarten. I have toured First

Things First pre-school programs and they are excellent. As our economy keeps growing we can then grow education programs.

5. As childhood abuse, neglect and foster care continue to be major issues in Arizona, what prevention and trauma response strategies do you support for our child welfare system, the Department of Child Safety and/or our local communities? How would you propose using local, state and federal funds to improve outcomes for youth experiencing foster care or additionally, work toward prevention of child abuse in our communities?

We have funded DCS at higher levels and reformed the agency by encouraging more in home help/education for parents. Keeping children in their own home it so important. That is where the up-front money in the agency needs to be applied. I have supported and voted for increase education funding for our foster youth. Organizations like Coconino Coalition for children and Youth are critical to being part of the support and education for parents.

6. Lastly, please feel free to share any further information with voters.

The last two years I have run 18 bills to help education in the area of regulations, and teacher support. Some examples: SB1317, protected special education procedures and streamlined reporting. SB1034/1040; reformed and increased funding for teacher student loan program. SB1038, funded a teachers development program to increase physic teachers in Arizona. SB1131, improving K-3 reading program.

I received many awards recognizing my effort for education and other social issues, these are but a few.

**AZ PTA for my SB1083, school recess and SB1082 Kindergarten instruction.
Hozahoni Foundation – For support of people of intellectual and developmental disabilities.
The March of Dimes – Advocacy & Government Affairs; Legislative Champion.
ARC – Appreciation Award for advocating for people of intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Council for Exceptional children AZ – Outstanding Leadership Award.
Coconino Community College Foundation, Appreciation Letter.
Friend of the Family.**

The greatest reward in being a state senator is giving hope to people and seeing the positive results from good Legislation that you sponsor.

