



2020 Candidate Questionnaire

**CCC&Y is a non-partisan organization and will not endorse candidates. We do support educated, engaged and participatory communities. Thank you to all the candidates for your willingness to serve the community, and especially, by answering this questionnaire, helping voters to become informed.*

The responses from the candidates will be uploaded to our website <https://coconinokids.org/candidates-2020/> as received without edits.

Directions: Please provide **your** response for the questions and information below without referring to another candidate. **Questionnaires that mention another candidate will not be posted.**

Candidate Name: Walt Blackman

Office: State Representative LD6

The mission of CCC&Y is: Igniting collective action to cultivate, honor & empower resilient, thriving communities.

The vision of CCC&Y is: We envision a holistic community where all children of Coconino County are increasingly free from trauma experience and all have equitable opportunities that build resiliency.

Please describe how your leadership and sphere of influence will impact this mission and vision; paying special attention to issues involving education, child welfare, environmental equity, and criminal justice reform? Concerning my leadership and experience, I served in the United States military and earned several military awards while serving our country, including the Bronze Star Medal, for combat actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal 21 years of continuous honorable active duty service. The skills I developed in the military are linked to the leadership I have demonstrated in the House of Representatives. I continue to serve my district and state by volunteering to educate young adults and students at local public schools and universities on preventing sexual harassment, assault, and dignity and respect across the district and the state. My Criminal Justice reform House Bill 2808 would increase the amount of earned release credits nonviolent offenders can accrue through participation in drug treatment or a “major self-improvement program” while incarcerated. In addition to the one day off for every six days served prisoners currently earn, eligible nonviolent offenders who participate in this rehabilitative programming will make an additional day-and-a-half off their sentences for every six days performed — a 30 percent reduction in their original sentencing time. This bill generates an additional 438 million dollars, which portions of the dollars from this bill will go to education, child welfare, environmental equity, and criminal justice reform.

If you find yourself faced with issues that are new to you or not fully understood by yourself, how do you plan to be influenced and make informed decisions? I use a systematic approach to making decisions. In real-life situations, decisions can often fail because the best alternatives are not clear at the outset, or key factors are not considered part of the process. If I have questions about an issue, I bring problem-solving and decision-making strategies to clarify my understanding. Additionally, I use a logical and ordered approach to ensure that I address all of the critical elements needed for a successful outcome. I work through this process and the Issue systematically to reduce the likelihood of overlooking important factors. I do this by using a seven-step approach that takes the guesswork out of critical thinking. 1. Constructive environment. 2. Investigate the situation in detail. 3. Generate good alternatives. 4. Explore your options. 5. Select the best solution. 6. Evaluate your plan. 7. Communicate your decision. 8. And take action.

Lastly, is there anything further you would like to share with us? For rural areas, economic prospects are bleak. According to the Economic Innovation Group, after the 2008 recession, counties with fewer than 100,000 residents lost 17,500 businesses. Although the rural poverty rate had declined from a 30-year peak of 18.4% in 2013 to 16.4% in 2017, it's still higher than urban areas, which are at 12.9%. My plan to assist in the recovery is education and health care issues. I will continue to support veteran issues and rural development programs that generate jobs, support ranchers, veterans, and creates revenue.