



## Arizona Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2010

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Animals play an important role in the lives of many Arizonans, who consistently demonstrate concern for animal protection. Humane-minded citizens of all political stripes care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues. Humane Voters of Arizona (HVA) appreciates your input on this 2010 State Candidate Questionnaire. HVA will be endorsing candidates for the upcoming primary and general elections based upon voting records and response to this questionnaire. HVA may also share questionnaire responses with other organizations that track and make endorsements.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues?**

**Yes**  **No** \_\_\_\_\_ **Comments** My family has always raised cattle and I have been involved in keeping our cattle healthy, safe, and properly caring for healthy production of its young on our Navajo reservation lands. The only primary protection issues I have been involved in were issues with the local public safety department in cattle rustling and keeping owners accountable in fencing their lands to avoid the animals from being hit by motorists & trucks near road sides. My late father, my brothers and I were constantly addressing the need for the Navajo Nation & county to keep the laws more active & monitored.

#### **Do you have, or have you had in the past, any companion animals that have had an impact on you?**

**Yes**  **No** \_\_\_\_\_ **Comments** While growing up around raising cattle, a horse, one bull, and two dogs held my passion as companions.

#### **Do you financially or philosophically support any local or national animal protection organizations? If so, which ones?**

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**  **Comments** Currently, no I do not support any local or national organizations.

## CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

### ANIMAL ABUSE LAWS

The link between cruelty to animals and violence toward humans is well documented. People who have committed acts of violence on animals are more likely to act out violently towards people in a number of scenarios and psychological profiles. Communities have good reason to be concerned about the whereabouts of animal abusers. An Animal Abuser Registry could prevent acts of violence against animals and people. It could also save thousands of tax-payer dollars by tracking repeat hoarding offenders who move from community to community, often violating terms of probation and plea agreements.

**Would you support legislation that requires animal abusers to register in their communities, if it could be funded without general fund or tax-payer dollars?**

**Yes**  **No**  **Comments** Yes, I would like to co-sponsor this legislation along with others. If these abusers are caught, and proven to be guilty, a hefty fine should be applied. Over the course of time, the collection of fines could serve a percentage toward supporting laws serve time, pay costs & register.

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## ANIMAL CONTROL

### HOMELESS ANIMALS

Every year, tens of thousands of cats and dogs are killed in shelters throughout Arizona. Taxpayers bear the cost of picking up, housing, and ultimately euthanizing these homeless or unwanted animals. The pet overpopulation crisis is the direct result of irresponsible breeding and animals left unaltered in our communities.

**Would you be willing to work with animal control agencies and/or shelters in your district to address problems related to the homeless animal crisis?**

**Yes**  **No**  **Comments** I sure would support this crisis, however, for some reason, the greater part of my district do not deal with picking up and housing homeless animals especially on my reservation -- The Navajo Nation. I do know that in small towns and cities of LD2 such as Flagstaff, there are local laws that are in support of the homeless animals for shelters and such. I would like to see LD2 become more consistent in legislation and support toward our domestic animals entirely.

## WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

### ARIZONA GAME & FISH COMMISSION

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission (AZGFC) is charged with managing and protecting Arizona's wildlife. It has five members who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Arizona Senate. Each serves a five-year term, no two may be from the same county and only three may be members of the same political party. Each candidate must be well-informed on the subject of wildlife.

For decades, Arizona has had an appointment process through which applicants would apply directly to the governor's office. However, last session the legislature passed SB 1200, a measure that creates a recommendation board controlled by

ranchers and clubs who represent less than 1% of Arizona hunters and anglers to appoint candidates to the AZGFC. The governor would be required to select only board-endorsed candidates.

SB 1200 was opposed by the AZGFC and many diverse hunting, conservation, and animal protection organizations.

**Do you support a process that includes less than 1% of hunters & anglers and limits the voice of a majority of Arizonans to control of the Arizona Game & Fish Commission appointment process?**

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**  **Comments** I still believe in majority ruling. There definitely has to be more than 1% representation especially from those non-sporting communities such as those citizens who respect all forms of life. Many Native Americans have this belief and should have a voice. I would have a voice if I were elected to the AZ state Senate seat!

**Do you believe that SB 1200 should be repealed?**

**Yes**  **No** \_\_\_\_\_ **Comments** Repealed, modified, create new language, etc. to focus on the primary mission, vision, and/or goal(s) of the Commission. I would like to see input from others besides those that sponsored the bill such as the Native people of Arizona who find that wildlife is sacred to our ways of life.

**Constitutional Right to Hunt Amendment**

The legislature referred a measure to the November ballot which, if passed by voters, will place the right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife in the Declaration of Rights of the Arizona Constitution. Proposition 109 declares "hunting, fishing and the harvesting of wildlife" as the preferred means of managing wildlife

This proposed amendment to our Constitution would make hunting a fundamental right, equal to existing rights of free speech, the right to vote, the right to bear arms and other core rights. Proposition 109 declares hunting and fishing to be a "preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife." That means the right to hunt could trump the use of sound science to develop wildlife management policies., and could limit the use of other management tools and important, innovative programs that do not involve hunting.

**Do you support Proposition 109?**

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**  **Comments** Bottom line.....no. I do not believe in an overwhelming mission to hunt & fish to become a human rights issue and for entertainment only. As I was taught by my forefathers on the Navajo Nation, our people only hunted for survival purposes and not necessarily as a sport. I still believe in this. When any form of life is taken for survival purposes, a tribal offering in prayer is done prior to killing. We were taught to respect all forms of life and their purposes on Mother Earth.

**CITIZENS' VOTING RIGHTS**

Arizona's public initiative process is a constitutional right which was enacted at statehood in 1912. The first initiative was for women's suffrage, and it passed by a margin of greater than two to one that same year.

Arguably the most important tool for protecting Arizona's animals is the public initiative process. Thanks to grassroots citizens' ballot measures, cruel leg-hold traps were banned on public lands in 1994 and cockfighting was outlawed in 1998. In 2006, voters overwhelmingly approved an initiative that banned the cruel confinement of pregnant pigs and calves raised for veal.

In 2000 voters rejected a proposal that would have required a 2/3 majority to pass any initiative affecting wildlife. And in a landslide election in 2008, voters defeated a measure that would have deprived the majority of voters participating in an election of the right to decide ballot initiatives, virtually eliminating the citizen initiative process.

### **Do you support Arizona's public initiative process?**

**Yes**  **No**  **Comments** Every voter has a say in the state's issues by referendums and should be voiced accordingly, which should include NOT eliminating the citizen initiative process.

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### **Do you believe that the Legislature should NOT attempt to dismantle the constitutional voting rights of Arizona citizens?**

**Yes**  **No**  **Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

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### **GREYHOUND RACING**

Over the past two sessions greyhound racetrack lobbyists have been attempting to gain support for a proposal to allow slot machines at racetracks (racinos).

In 2002, Arizona voters defeated a referendum to allow slots at dog tracks by an 80% - 20% margin. That fact hasn't deterred track lobbyists, who are promising legislators high revenue returns to appease the budget deficit. However, the tracks' revenue numbers have not been verified and a preliminary review by the Arizona Joint Legislative Budget Committee called their projections "highly unlikely." Moreover racinos would jeopardize tribal gaming, which has contributed over \$500 million to Arizona since 2004. In contrast, dog tracks have paid no pari-mutuel taxes since being granted large tax breaks in 1995.

Aside from the economic argument, state law would require racinos to include live racing, which would perpetuate the needless over-breeding of racing animals. Despite rescue efforts, thousands of greyhounds are still being killed each year on a nationwide basis, further contributing to Arizona's and America's homeless dog

**Do you support legislation granting slot machines to Arizona dog tracks?**

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**  **Comments** Evidence-based projects which was mentioned, has shown or proven to not generate revenues (as was mentioned). Placing the lives of the greyhound dogs as a means to recovery from the budget constraints is not a sound or acceptable alternative. I don't believe it will impact the tribal gaming industry. The tribal gaming industry has a gaming commission that works closely with the states; whereas I do not see the AZ dog tracks imposing upon this system.

Thank you for your time. Please return the completed questionnaire to:

**Humane Voters of Arizona**  
**Email to: [HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net](mailto:HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net)**