



Arizona Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2010

Candidate Pat Flickner

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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 X** **Comments** I volunteered for a long time – and now donate money to – A Horse Rescue of North Scottsdale, which is as close to protection issues as I've come. I have always been good with animals, but horses are especially precious to me. Holly, who runs the rescue, would tell me stories of horses saved from Killers, of how Turf Paradise would call her and tell her basically, either you take the horse or we sell it to a killer. So even with little room, that horse fit.

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

Yes X **No**____ **Comments** There is not a single animal that has been in my home that didn't have an impact on me. From my first dog, Corky, to my current companions Doc and Lucifer (both rescue animals), my life is not the same because of them.

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

Yes X **No**____ **Comments** As I said above, I now donate through work (so she gets double) A Horse Rescue of North Scottsdale. Great lady. I am humbled by her commitment to these horses.

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 X No____ **Comments** I think that there should also be a limit, some kind of probationary period, for lesser offenses, that if they don't harm any animals for a set period of time, their names will automatically be removed from the list. I remember when the dog and horse shootings started in Tolleson, I called the police to warn them that this behavior was indicative of a serial killer in the making. There is too much knowledge now about the correlation between animal and human cruelty and animal cruelty should be treated as harshly.

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 X No____ **Comments** _____

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 X** **Comments** Our current Legislature has already shown where their allegiances lie, and that isn't with the people of Arizona. I would press to rescind this measure and go back to a process that was working just fine before our Legislature broke it.

Do you believe that SB 1200 should be repealed?

Yes X **No**____ **Comments**_____

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 X** **Comments** Absolutely not! Hunting is a privilege, akin to having a car. What are they going to do next, make it a right to own and operate a vehicle without a license? You have to get a license to hunt and fish, just as you need a license to operate a vehicle. I've about had enough of this anarchist Legislature. This isn't Somalia and I, for one, don't want it to become Somalia.

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 _____

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

Yes No Comments Of course, that won't stop them from trying.

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 X** **Comments**_____

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

Humane Voters of Arizona
Email to: HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net