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Collector: Email Invitation 1 (Email)
Started: Sunday, August 12, 2018 8:59:23 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, August 12, 2018 9:26:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:31
First Name: Denise "Mitzi"
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Custom Data: State Representative - District 18
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Page 2: CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Q1 Candidate Name

Denise "Mitzi" Epstein

Q2 Legislative District

18

Q3 Legislative Chamber

House

Q4 Party Affiliation

Democrat

Q5 Email Address

Mitzi@MitziEpstein.com

Q6 Campaign Website

<https://www.mitziepstein.com/>

Q7 Phone Number

480-704-4624

Page 3: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2018 Arizona Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Q8 Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues?

NO,

Comments:

none aside from legislative activity, and you can see my voting record is in favor of treating animals humanely

Q9 Do you have, or have you had in the past, any companion animals that have had an impact on you?

YES,

Comments:

We had a dog named, Sparky.

Q10 Do you financially or philosophically support any local or national animal protection organizations?

YES,

If so, which ones?:

World Wildlife Fund, Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, National Resource Defense Council, etc.

Page 4: FARM ANIMALS

Q11 Do you support removing farm animals and horses from protection under Arizona's animal cruelty law and placing them under new, weaker laws in the agriculture code?

NO

Page 5: CITIZEN INITIATIVE PROCESS AND ANIMAL PROTECTION

Q12 Do you support Arizona's public initiative process?

YES

Q13 If YES, what steps would you take to protect citizen initiatives?

The standard of compliance must be returned to "substantial compliance." The very fact that initiatives are run by citizens speaks to the nature of the project. If a reasonable person could assume that a signature gatherer is a volunteer, then there should be no penalty for not checking a box at the right time -- in general, but not always. That is why we allow a judge to make a reasonable judgment and it should be base on substantial compliance.

Further, I would like to see citizens' initiatives have opportunities to be developed with input from people across the state. I think that a process like the Arizona Town Hall uses is a good way to gather ideas from a broad range of perspectives.

Page 6: ANIMAL CRUELTY LAW

2018 Arizona Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Q14 Do you support strengthening Arizona's animal cruelty laws to correct loopholes that make it difficult to prosecute animal abusers?

YES,

Comments:

The goal should be to bring the offender to the right place for help and rehabilitation. If the consequence for hurting an animal is only punishment, then does that teach the offender that he/she should punish those that misbehave to him? The data we have on the connection between animal abusers and domestic violence should be a starting point to continue to address this issue in a more comprehensive way, with the goal being changes to behavior, as well as protection of animals.

Page 7: WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

Q15 Do you support a process that limits the voice of a majority of Arizonans to participate in the Arizona Game & Fish Commission appointment process?

NO

Q16 Do you believe that the AZ Game and Fish Commission Appointment Recommendation Board should be repealed?

YES

Page 8: ENDANGERED WOLVES

Q17 Do you support legislation that weakens protection for endangered Mexican gray wolves?

NO

Page 9: CAPTIVE DOLPHINS IN ARIZONA

Q18 Do you support captive dolphin programs for human entertainment?

NO

Page 10: ANIMAL CONTROL

Q19 Do you believe that Arizona should have more uniform animal control laws to prevent inhumane treatment of animals?

YES,

Comments:

Laws should be uniform across counties to prevent inhumane treatment of animals. However, that may look very different in Maricopa County than in Greenlee County. As such, broad protections should be made on a state level, with plenty of implementation flexibility for counties to assert local control and do what works in their county. I look forward to hearing from you about this issue, so I can learn more.