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Page 2: CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Q1

Candidate Name

Patricia "Patty" Contreras

Q2

Legislative District

12

Q3

House

Legislative Chamber

Q4

Democrat

Party Affiliation

Q5

Email Address

patty.contreras.az@gmail.com

Q6

Campaign Website

<https://www.ContrerasforAZ.net>

Q7

Phone Number

602-809-8018

Page 3: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Q8

Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues?

YES,

Comments:

I once took home a cat, Snowball, who was left abandoned at a park near where I worked. She needed a lot of medical attention so I took her to my veterinarian to check her out and get her healthy. My current cat, Luna, was also a rescue who was recovering from just having had kittens although she was very young herself. We adopted her even though her mammary glands were engorged and she was recovering from just having been spayed. The adoption agency thought no one would take her because of her condition but we thought she was friendly and curious so we decided to adopt her. I always encourage friends and family to adopt from recognized adoption agencies. This past year, I received emails and calls about a terrible situation in my district where a woman was housing too many dogs and not properly caring for them. I advocated through local authorities to get this situation investigated.

Q9

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

YES,

Comments:

Mr. Kitty was my first pet and the one who impacted me the most. He was a Manx and very smart. I taught him how to use the toilet, which is difficult with a Manx because they don't have tails! He was an indoor/outdoor cat. He learned how to go through the laundry window that I had set up for him to get in and out. He was playful and caring. He knew when I was having a bad day or not feeling well; he would come be with me to make me feel better. He got along with our dog and would often go on walks with us in the desert. Mr. Kitty didn't need a leash, we would follow along as we led the dog. If we went out of his range, he would sit and wait until we came back and then resume with us to walk home. I moved a few times and Mr. Kitty was always very adaptable to his new surroundings. He was my constant companion and traveled well in a car. When Mr. Kitty passed at 16 years old, I was very heartbroken. Although I have had a few cats since him, he will always be my favorite.

Q10

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

YES,

If so, which ones?:

I philosophically support the local humane society. All of the pets I have had were rescue animals from one of the local humane society facilities. I have also donated towels and other items to the humane society when someone has a drive for these items.

Q11

If elected, would you be interested in sponsoring or working on legislation to protect animals?

Yes,

Comments:

A former colleague introduced legislation to outlaw cat declawing in Arizona. This bill did not make it to the governor's desk. I would reintroduce this legislation. I have had five cats and I have been able to train them to not claw at the furniture or jump on counters. People who mistreat their animals and resort to barbaric measures, instead of humanely training them, should not have pets.

Page 4: RESCUING ANIMALS FROM ABUSIVE CONDITIONS

Q12

Do you support the ability of law enforcement or animal control officers to seize animals who are in imminent danger of severe injury or death without a search warrant?

YES,

Comment:

I was contacted by my sister-in-law regarding this situation and I quickly brought it to the attention of Chandler authorities. This legislation needs to be brought back to the legislature and I agree with seizing animals who are at risk and who are suffering.

Page 5: THE WORKING ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT

Q13

Would you oppose legislation that prohibits local governments from enacting any ordinances to address inhumane treatment of working animals?

YES,

Comments:

I believe in each local government's right to pass ordinances that are reflective of their communities. I often vote against preemption bills.

Page 6: DOGFIGHTING AND COCKFIGHTING

Q14

Do you support adding dogfighting and cockfighting to the RICO statute to enable law enforcement to crack down on animal fighting rings by defeating the financial incentive to commit the crime?

YES,

Comment:

Dog fighting and cock fighting are barbaric practices that must be stopped and I support the RICO statute that would allow law enforcement to crack down on this practice.

Page 7: CITIZEN INITIATIVE PROCESS AND ANIMAL PROTECTION

Q15

YES

Do you support Arizona's public initiative process?

Q16

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

I believe in the democratic process and allowing citizens to offer initiatives to the public if they feel the legislature is not reflecting their views and desires. It is already state law to allow citizens to offer these initiatives and I will fight in the legislature against any attempts to make this process harder for citizens. Unfortunately, one party (not mine) feels that they should make it harder for citizens because the legislation they offer does not reflect the values of the voting public.

Page 8: IMPROVING ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS

Q17

Do you support amending the state animal cruelty law to clarify standards of care for domestic animals?

YES,

Comment:

Yes. If the state animal cruelty law is not clear, I support legislation to make it much clearer so animals are protected and not subjected to cruel owners who do not care adequately for them.

Page 9: PUPPY MILLS

Q18

Would you support repealing the law that preempts cities from banning the sale of dogs from puppy mills?

YES,

Comments:

Yes, as I indicated previously, I am opposed to preemption laws and each local community must be allowed to have ordinances that meet the needs of their constituency.

Page 10: BAN ON CAT DECLAWING

Q19

Do you support legislation to prohibit non-therapeutic declawing of cats?

YES,

Comment:

I think having cats declawed is barbaric. As I answered in a previous question, a former colleague introduced legislation to outlaw this procedure in Arizona. This bill did not make it to the governor's desk. I would reintroduce this legislation. I have had five cats and I have been able to train them to not claw at the furniture or jump on counters. People who mistreat their animals and resort to barbaric measures, instead of humanely training them, should not have pets.

Page 11: ARIZONA GAME & FISH COMMISSION

Q20

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

YES,

Comments:

I was not aware of this practice and it makes sense that the people who are appointed to this position should have expertise in managing game and fish. A more diverse group would provide better management of our public resources.

Page 12: ENDANGERED MEXICAN WOLVES

Q21

Do you support the recovery of endangered Mexican gray wolves in Arizona to help maintain a healthy ecosystem?

YES,

Comments:

Mexican gray wolves are necessary to the ecosystem and should be allowed to prosper in Arizona.

Page 13: FARM ANIMALS

Q22

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

YES,

Comments:

I will never understand how anyone can agree that being cruel to any animal is okay. This includes farm animals and horses, they deserve protections from cruel behavior and anyone being cruel to these animals needs to be punished to the fullest extent of the law.
