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COMPLETE

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Page 2: CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Q1

Candidate Name

Mitzi Epstein

Q2

Legislative District

LD12

Q3

Senate

Legislative Chamber

Q4

Democrat

Party Affiliation

Q5

Email Address

Mitzi@azeps.net

Q6

Campaign Website

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

Q7

Phone Number

480-704-4624

Page 3: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Q8

Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues?

YES,

Comments:

I have advocated for many animal protection issues including bills this year in favor of more space for egg-laying hens, and stopping the de-clawing of domestic house cats. In prior years, I sponsored the Balloon Litter Bill. If passed, if you littered with balloons then the enforcement was community service picking up litter. Of the litter that birds eat, balloon litter is the number one killer. Balloon litter also kills marine wildlife and our desert animals like big horn sheep and tortoises.

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 very sweet dog named, Sparky as part of our family for 12 years. When I told my husband, "I'm taking the boys to the park," he knew I meant our 2 sons and Sparky.

Q10

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

YES,

If so, which ones?:

Keeping habitat available to wildlife is especially important to me. I support the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and similar organizations.

Q11

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

Yes,

Comments:

Please reach out to me if there is something in particular that you'd like to run.

Page 4: BAN ON CAT DECLAWING

Q12

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

YES,

Comment:

This is very important legislation. Thank you to everybody who has advocated and helped legislators to learn more about it. We will get there.

Page 5: ARIZONA GAME & FISH COMMISSION

Q13

YES

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

Q14

YES,

Do you believe that the AZ Game and Fish Commission Appointment Recommendation Board should be repealed?

Comments:

Yes. If the board is keeping highly qualified people from diverse walks of life out of the Game and Fish Commission, then either the board needs to be repealed, or the process needs to be drastically changed. Anybody should be able to apply, and maybe we need to add more requirements for diversity on the commission. If repealing the gate-keeper Recommendation Board gets positive results, then let's do that.

Page 6: 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?

#1 - Remove the outrageous requirements that apply to citizen initiative petitions, but not to candidate petitions. This set of laws that protect incumbents, and make it extremely difficult for the citizens themselves to make laws is wrong.

#2 - An IDEA that needs work, and I welcome your comments: I'd like to work on developing a process for citizens to get some signatures - for example, 10,000 -- and that would grant them a hearing for their initiative in a Legislative Committee of their choice.

Ex: Get 10,000 signatures and automatically get a hearing in the House LARA Committee for the Citizen's Initiative. (It must be scheduled on an agenda.) The results of that hearing could be:

A- Media attention on the issue and more calls to keep signing the petitions.

B- Good ideas from legislators around the state to make it better, and/or to find flaws so they can be fixed before it goes forward.

C- From there, it could be treated like a legislative referendum, where it next goes to the Floor of that chamber for a vote from the Committee of the Whole and for a vote on Third Read.

If it passes Third Read, it would go to the other chamber and it could eventually be referred to the ballot without the requirement of 200,000 signatures or more.

Page 7: PUPPY MILLS

Q17

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

YES,

Comments:

Abusive puppy mills should be banned. If the state will not create a humane regulatory system, then cities should have the local control to do as their residents see is the right thing to do to protect animals.

Page 8: ENDANGERED MEXICAN WOLVES

Q18

Do you support keeping Mexican gray wolves in Arizona to help maintain healthy herds of deer and elk?

YES,

Comments:

I voted, 'NAY' both in House LARA Committee and on 3rd read on the bill. I was disappointed to see my Democratic colleagues vote Yes for this bill, especially Rep Espinoza in the LARA Committee. I continue to wonder, "Did they not hear that there are already laws to allow a person to kill a wolf that is attacking a person? Did they not hear that there are funds available to ranchers to reimburse them for cattle or other livestock killed by wolves? Did they not understand that there is a whole ecosystem around ranches and if we kill the predators, the whole system gets out of balance?" We cannot continue to run livestock operations as our ancestors did 100 years ago, simply because there are billions more humans on the planet now than there were 100 years ago. We cannot react to 1 or a few wolves on a property as though they are 1 or a few. We must see them as part of the whole ecosystem.

Q19

Do you support the protection of endangered species?

YES,

Comments:

Again, the whole ecosystem matters.

Page 9: FARM ANIMALS

Q20

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:

It continues to surprise me each time I see another bill to weaken protections for farm animals. I find these abusive bills to be ethically wrong and weird politically. The people of Arizona have voted with a clear voice on several initiatives indicating they want our laws to ensure humane treatment of animals. I favor that personally, and my constituents have shown their support for humane treatment repeatedly.
