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Collector: Email Invitation 8 (Email)
Started: Saturday, July 13, 2024 2:50:13 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 13, 2024 3:12:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:09
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Page 2: CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Q1

Candidate Name

Priya Sundareshan

Q2

Legislative District

18

Q3

Senate

Legislative Chamber

Q4

Democrat

Party Affiliation

Q5

Email Address

priya4arizona@gmail.com

Q6

Campaign Website

<https://priyaforarizona.com/>

Q7

Phone Number

5203443477

Page 3: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Q8

Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues?

YES,

Comments:

Yes, I have studied endangered species laws and even wrote an article on how to protect the last vaquita population from dangerous traffickers. I am also interested in animal protection issues through my environmental interests.

Q9

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

YES,

Comments:

I have had roommates with dogs who I've taken care of, one since he was a puppy. I was about to get a pet myself but then had babies and it's been hard to keep my house in order!

Q10

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

YES,

If so, which ones?:

I am a fan of our local Tucson animal rescue organizations who do important work in rehoming animals who have been abandoned.

Q11

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

Yes,

Comments:

Yes, I am often in touch with Gabe of HSUS on animal protection legislation.

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 support the ability for law enforcement or animal control to be able to seize animals injured or near death. I am also concerned with privacy protections and the fear that such laws could be abused by law enforcement to target certain populations, and I am interested in finding the balance so that the government can act to protect animals without inviting overreach.

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:

Yes, I even asked questions of the bill sponsor to highlight the concerns with such legislation.

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:

I absolutely agree we must target the financial incentives that support these brutal activities. As before, I am also concerned about the potential for such legislation to target specific communities, but the way to find the balance is to work with those potentially impacted to ensure the legislation is drafted in the right way.

Page 7: CITIZEN INITIATIVE PROCESS AND ANIMAL PROTECTION

Q15

Do you support Arizona's public initiative process?

YES

Q16

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

I am leading the effort to flip the Arizona legislature to Democratic control, which will put a halt to these attacks on the public initiative process. I also support making it easier for the public initiative process by removing the stricter requirements for signature collection, and allowing initiatives to collect signatures online.

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:

I recall there was some concern about making sure the unhoused population wouldn't run afoul of this if they have pets but are unsheltered. I support this proposal as long as we can resolve these concerns.

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:

We have to restrict puppy mills, and focus prospective pet owners on rescue organizations.

Page 10: BAN ON CAT DECLAWING

Q19

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

YES,

Comment:

I was ready to introduce the bill if another Senate sponsor had not been found.

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:

Thank you for this history on the Commission selection process.

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:

Even as the Legislature has considered bills to support the wolf depredation fund, I have raised concerns about whether this helps smooth tensions or just perpetuates animosity between ranchers and wolves.

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
