

# THE CANNABIS CANDIDATE GUIDE

**FIND OUT WHERE  
CANDIDATES  
STAND ON  
ISSUES THAT  
MATTER TO YOU!**

**General Election  
November 8th**



**vote truth  
to power**



## **How to Use Arizona NORML's Candidate Guide**

If you're like us, you don't like voting for politicians who think your lifestyle makes you a criminal. You also want further improvements to our cannabis laws, like the ability to get your own licenses, to shop at a dispensary that is closer to your house, to attend consumption events that are clearly legal, to pay less money for your medical marijuana card, or to have the right to get a medical marijuana card. If that's the case, you have come to the right place!

When the legislature is in session, you can find us their advocating for laws that improve your life. However, our ability to get those laws passed depends on the politicians that hold office.

In Arizona, the Voter Protection Act makes legal reform hard. For virtually any cannabis bill to become law, it must further the purpose of the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act and/or the Smart & Safe Arizona Act. Additionally, the bill must pass both chambers of the legislature (the House & the Senate) with at least 75% support.

That makes your job this November of critical importance, but lucky you! We have made it as easy as possible.

To use this guide, first, you will want to find both your Congressional District and your Legislative District. Your Congressional District determines your choice of which representative you want to send to Congress in Washington D.C. On the other hand, your Legislative District determines your choice of which candidates you want to send to our State House and State Senate. To find your "CD" and your "LD," you will enter your address in [this website](#). Then, scroll down to our Table of Contents to review our analysis of all your candidates!

We hope you find this guide useful and have at least one or two exciting candidates you can vote for.



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## United States Senate

### **(R) Blake Masters: I**

[Masters](#) is an entrepreneur, author and was COO at Thiel Capital from 2018 to 2022. This first-time Congressional candidate did not respond to our survey despite myriad contacts. For the protege of Peter Thiel—whom some call a libertarian—Masters has been notably silent on the issues of drug policy and reforming our drug laws. Although his Twitter account is replete with handwringing about drug trafficking and drug cartels, it remains unclear if his concerns involve only violent crime and substances like Fentanyl that are more addictive and harmful than cannabis. While silence can speak volumes, and engage in more fear-mongering about drug trafficking, we do not feel comfortable grading him based on this information alone.

### **(D) Mark Kelly: B+**

[Kelly](#) has flown combat missions and he was selected by NASA as an astronaut where he flew four missions. Kelly won the 2020 special election for the United States Senate and is back this year for a run at a full term in the United States Senate. Despite repeated contacts, Kelly did not respond to our survey.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Kelly tweeted his support for the SAFE Banking Act: “I support the bipartisan #SAFEBankingAct. It’s time the federal government stopped forcing Arizona’s cannabis businesses to operate as cash only and gave access to basic financial services. This is a common sense, pro-business effort that would improve safety and livelihoods.”

Kelly also signed a letter of support in the Senate for the SAFE Banking Act in November of 2021. Then, earlier this year, he reiterated his support, tweeting: “It's time the federal government stopped forcing Arizona’s cannabis businesses to operate as cash only and gave access to basic financial services. This is a common sense, pro-business effort that would improve safety and livelihoods.”

A Benzinga article entitled “Democratic Senator and Former Astronaut Mark Kelly Joins Colleagues Against Federal Marijuana Reform dated April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, stated this regarding Kelly and the MORE Act: “Kelly, a retired NASA astronaut and retired U.S. Navy captain, noted that the bill should make operations easier for cannabis businesses in states that have legalized the plant, but “stopped short of endorsing it,” writes azfamily.” Kelly was further quoted as saying: “I think in general, folks that are legally conducting businesses in states like Arizona should have access to the banking system, but I’ll have to look at the details.”

Lastly, Kelly was supportive of legalization through Prop 207 in an article in the Phoenix New Times entitled “Mark Kelly Says He Supports Recreational Marijuana Legalization in Arizona” dated on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

In 2020, we didn’t have enough information to rate Kelly. Despite his lack of response to our survey, we can grade him this year on the preceding information.

**(LBT) Marc Victor: A**

[Victor](#) is a United States Marine Corps veteran who works as an attorney. He unsuccessfully ran for United States Senate in 2012 and is back on the ballot this year in the general election in November. Victor responded to our survey and expressed full support for improving the existing legal market through fairer competition, craft licensing and small business ownership. While recognizing the medicinal value of cannabis, Victor was in strong agreement that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions and that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. Furthermore, Victor offered steadfast support for automatic expungements as well as adding more non-violent cannabis offenses to expungement law and defelonizing those aforementioned offenses. Lastly, Victor was adamant that DCS should not penalize individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and was vehemently opposed to the use of THC metabolites as the sole indicator of impairment.

In addition to his survey responses, Victor summed up his thoughts with the following comment: “I support the absolute rights of all competent adults to put whatever they want in their bodies. People own themselves.

## United States House of Representatives

### Congressional District 1

*In the wake of Arizona's 2020 redistricting effort, [Congressional District 1](#) now includes much of northeastern Maricopa County, stretching roughly from the I-17 corridor to Four Peaks, as far north as Deer Valley and as far south as the Salt River (excluding many portions of Phoenix).*

*This district is often described as leaning Republican. However, Representative Schweikert has courted controversy lately. He was recently reprimanded by the U.S. House of Representatives for 11 election violations and ultimately agreed to pay the Federal Elections Commission \$125,000 for misusing campaign funds. As of now, the Cook Political Report describes the race as a toss-up.*

#### **(D) Jevin Hodge: A**

[Hodge](#) is a community and business leader who ran unsuccessfully for the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors District 1 in 2020. He returns this year with a run for CD1. Hodge responded to our survey in strong agreement that the legal market should be enhanced by fairer competition, craft licenses and small business ownership. He recognized the medicinal value of cannabis and fully supports adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing medical marijuana card costs. Hodge is fully on board with automatic expungements, adding more non-violent cannabis offenses to expungement law and defelonizing those aforementioned offenses. Lastly, Hodge is adamant that DCS should not punish individuals who were pregnant and consumed medical marijuana at the recommendation of a medical professional and that the presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.

#### **(R) David Schweikert: C**

[Schweikert](#) first served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 1991 to 1995. He was then elected to the Congressional seat in District 6 in 2010 and has served in that same capacity until today. He returns this year seeking the Congressional seat in District 1. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Schweikert did not respond to our survey.

We'll provide you with a historical perspective on Schweikert from our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "Here's Schweikert's record on cannabis in Congress (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis





- Has not supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Voted in favor of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting medical marijuana patients and providers in states where it is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2015)
- Voted against allowing VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana for veterans in states where it is legal. (2016)
- Voted against preventing states from penalizing banks for providing financial services to legitimate cannabis businesses. (2014)”

Since the 2020 election, Schweikert has voted yes on HR5657 (The Medical Marijuana Research Act) and yes on the SAFE Banking Act of 2021. However, he voted no on the 2019 and 2022 versions of the MORE Act, in addition to complaining on Twitter about Democratic leadership bringing the bill up for a vote instead of providing for more Paycheck Protection Program loans. Voting twice against the MORE Act is rather problematic and it forces us to significantly lower Schweikert’s grade from 2020.

## Congressional District 2

*The reconstituted [Congressional District 2](#) covers much of the northern and eastern portion of Arizona. It includes parts of Mohave County and extends to Arizona's border with New Mexico. It further loops around the Phoenix Metropolitan Area, including Globe, Florence, and Maricopa. A full map of this sprawling district is available through the link above. The district has been widely characterized as leaning Republican.*

### **(D) Tom O'Halleran: A-**

[O'Halleran](#) was an Arizona State Representative from 2001 to 2007. After that, he was an Arizona Senator from 2007 to 2009. In 2016, O'Halleran won the Congressional seat in District 1 and has held that seat until today. He is seeking the Congressional seat in CD2 this election cycle. Despite repeated contacts, O'Halleran did not respond to our survey.

For a historical perspective, here's what we had to say about O'Halleran in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "His office did meet with the Arizona NORML delegation in 2019 during NORML's national lobby day in September of 2019. O'Halleran has typically avoided the cannabis conversation so we'll use outside information to examine his stances (courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has supported allowing cannabis businesses to use banks
- Has not supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has not supported ending prohibition at the federal level
- Voted in favor of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level (2019)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting cannabis users and businesses in states where recreational cannabis is legal (2019)"

In the last two years since 2020, O'Halleran has voted yes on the 2019 and 2022 versions of the MORE Act, the SAFE Banking Act of 2021, and the Medical Marijuana Research Act. O'Halleran's impeccable record over the last two years demonstrates that he has evolved regarding cannabis-related issues and we'll certainly adjust his grade from 2020 to reflect that.

### **(R) Eli Crane: I**

[Crane](#) is a United States Navy combat veteran and small business owner. Crane did not provide a campaign email or phone number in the Secretary of State listings so we were unable to contact his campaign. Sadly, our research yielded nothing relative to this first-time Congressional candidate and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate him at this time. Like Blake Masters and



other (generally) Republican candidates, Crane engages in much hand-wringing about drug-trafficking, but for reasons stated above, this is not enough information for us to grade Crane.

### Congressional District 3

*This Democratic-leaning district stretches from South Mountain to Glendale, including most of Phoenix that does not fall within Congressional District 1. Analysts describe [Congressional District 3](#) as either “Safe Democratic” or “Solidly Democratic.” However, we urge you to cast a vote nonetheless, particularly due to (1) your exciting opportunity to vote for an A+ congressional candidate, (2) the competitive state legislative districts falling within this federal district, and (3) the fact that all CD-3 residents can vote for Arizona NORML-endorsed Maricopa County Attorney Candidate Julie Gunnigle.*

#### **(D) Ruben Gallego: A+**

[Gallego](#) was initially elected to a seat in the Arizona House in LD27 in 2010, won that seat again in 2012, and introduced an adult-use legalization bill in 2013! In 2014, he was elected to a Congressional seat in District 7 and has held that seat until today. Gallego is seeking the Congressional seat in District 3 this election cycle. Gallego’s Chief of Staff did respond to our survey offering full support for fairer competition in the legal market and agreeing that the market should be expanded through small business ownership and craft licensing. Gallego recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis and agreed that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. However, Gallego remained neutral on adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions. Furthermore, Gallego supported automatic expungements and enhancing existing expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses. Gallego strongly agreed that those types of offenses should be defeloned as well. Lastly, Gallego was neutral regarding DCS penalizing individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the direction of a medical professional and the use of THC metabolites being the sole indicator of impairment.



Gallego’s Chief of Staff offered an explanation for his neutrality on some of his responses: “The answers that are marked ‘neutral’ . . . are largely issues that Rep. Gallego has not had the opportunity to study at the federal level as they have been left mostly to state and local jurisdiction. He would welcome the opportunity to learn more about the science and evidence behind these issues.”

For a historical perspective on Gallego, here’s what we had to say about him in our 2020 General Election Guide: “Gallego was the first legislator in the state House to introduce legislation for full legalization of adult use in Arizona and has been a long-time advocate for cannabis reform. Here’s his record in Congress (Courtesy of Head Count’s Cannabis Voter Project):

- Has supported allowing cannabis businesses to use banks
- Has supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Co-sponsored the MORE Act, which would end the prohibition of cannabis at the federal level, expunge low-level cannabis convictions and levy a 5% tax on cannabis sales to fund grants for communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. (2020)
- Voted in favor of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2019, which would end the prohibition of cannabis at the federal level. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act, which would legalize and regulate cannabis at the federal level. (2018)
- Co-sponsored the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which would allow banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the SAFE Act of 2017, which would allow banks to provide services to legitimate cannabis businesses. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the Veterans Equal Access Act, which would allow VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis for veterans in states where it is legal. (2018)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting medical marijuana patients and providers in states where it is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis for veterans in states where it is legal. (2016)”

In the last two years in the House, Gallego has voted yes on the 2019 version of the MORE Act, co-sponsored and voted yes on the SAFE Banking Act of 2021, co-sponsored the MORE Act in 2021 and then voted yes for it in 2022, and voted yes on the Medical Marijuana Research Act in 2022. Gallego's record on cannabis-related issues is stunning and we truly appreciate his support in Congress.

To further illustrate, you can enjoy these Twitter quotes from Gallego:

- "Marijuana is less harmful than other regulated products, including alcohol, when used properly by adults."
- "The criminalization of marijuana has been a disaster for communities of color and fueled decades of over-incarceration. It's time for federal law to catch up to the 37 states including AZ that have decriminalized marijuana. The Senate needs to pass the MORE Act."
- "[T]oo many lives have been ruined by the criminalization of marijuana. It's past time the federal government address the racial disparities in marijuana enforcement & end decades of failed drug policy."
- Responding to news of a Russian Olympic athlete's failed drug test and stating: *"But our American sprinter Sha'carri smoked Marijuana and was booted from the Olympics? Glad I boycotted this corrupt game."*

As his quotes and survey responses show, Gallego's advocacy goes beyond that of an ally; he is a champion for cannabis consumers. We are glad we didn't boycott his candidacy, like he boycotted the Olympics for their treatment of a cannabis consumer.

**(R) Jeffrey Zink: C-**

[Zink](#) is a business owner who has also worked with several professional sports teams with respect to sports-related injuries. This first-time Congressional candidate responded to our survey in agreement that the legal market would benefit from fairer competition, craft licensing and small business ownership. Zink agrees that there are medical benefits to cannabis and that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced while remaining neutral on the statement regarding Autism Spectrum Disorder. Furthermore, Zink was neutral regarding automatic expungements and enhancing current expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses, but he did support defelonizing non-violent cannabis offenses. Lastly, Zink agreed that DCS should not punish individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the recommendation of a medical professional. However, Zink would like to see cannabis consumers be penalized solely if they are driving while marijuana metabolites are in their system.



In addition to his survey responses, Zink offered the following statement: “Cannabis offenses should be a case by case basis. I think that you should not drink or consume anything and be under the influence of a drug legal or illegal.”



## Congressional District 4

*The significantly re-shaped [Congressional District 4](#) includes Tempe, Mesa, the Ahwatukee Foothills, Kyrene, and significant portions of Chandler. Analysts describe this race as Leaning Democratic or Likely Democratic, indicating its competitive nature.*

### **(D) Greg Stanton: A**

[Stanton](#) served on the Phoenix City Council from 2000 to 2009. He then served as the Mayor of Phoenix from 2012 to 2018. He won the Congressional seat in District 9 in 2018 and has maintained that seat until today. Stanton returns this year with a run for the Congressional seat in District 4. Despite repeated contacts, Stanton did not respond to our survey.

For a historical perspective on Stanton, here's what we had to say about him in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "Stanton did meet with the Arizona NORML delegation during NORML's national lobby day in September of 2019. Here's his record in Congress relative to cannabis reform (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Voted in favor of advancing the MORE Act, which would end the prohibition of cannabis at the federal level, expunge low-level cannabis convictions and levy a 5% tax on cannabis sales to fund grants for communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. (2019)
- Voted in favor of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which would allow banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)"

In the last two years, Stanton has voted yes on iterations of the MORE Act in both 2020 and 2022. Furthermore, he co-sponsored and voted yes on the SAFE Banking Act of 2021. Lastly, Stanton voted yes on the Medical Marijuana Research Act in 2022.

### **(R) Kelly Cooper: I**

[Cooper](#) is a United States Marine Corps veteran who works in the restaurant business. This first-time Congressional candidate did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts. All we could find was a Twitter account that is replete with fear-mongering about drug trafficking and





complaints about harm reduction programs. Silence and quotes like these can speak volumes, but it is unfortunately not enough to grade Cooper.

## Congressional District 5

*This district covers much of the southeastern portion of the Valley, including Apache Junction, Gilbert, the southern and eastern stretches of Chandler, Queen Creek, and San Tan Valley. Although analysts describe [Congressional District 5](#) as Safe Republican or Solidly Republican, please bear in mind that there are many competitive races for the state legislature and for local/county office.*

### **(D) Javier Garcia Ramos: C+**

[Ramos](#) is a graduate of ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and has worked as an attorney. He unsuccessfully ran for US House in CD5 in 2020. He returns this year for another run in CD5. He responded to our survey and agreed that the legal market should enhance fair competition but was neutral relative to the addition of small businesses and craft licenses. Ramos strongly agreed that there are medical applications for cannabis and that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions while agreeing that medical marijuana card fees should be reduced. Even though Ramos remained neutral regarding automatic expungements, he did agree that more non-violent cannabis offenses should be codified into expungement law and that those offenses should be defeloned. Lastly, Ramos was in agreement that DCS shouldn't impose penalties on anyone who consumed medical marijuana at the behest of a medical professional while pregnant but believes that THC metabolites should be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

While we fully disagree with Ramos relative to THC metabolites and impairment, he did submit the following comment to justify his position: "Question #3 indicates that there is impairment in the driving ability. Impairment due to the THC in the system should be illegal. Now if the question said that the only evidence is THC metabolites in the system; that should not be illegal because you have to have impaired driving."

### **(R) Andy Biggs: F**

[Biggs](#) first served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2003 to 2011. He was then elected to the Senate seat in LD22 in 2010. In 2012, he was elected to the Senate seat in LD12 and won that seat again in 2014. In 2016, Biggs won the Congressional seat in District 5 and has maintained that seat until today. He is seeking the Congressional seat in District 5 this election cycle as well. Despite repeated attempts at contact, Biggs did not respond to our survey.

Here's a historical perspective on Biggs from our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "We'll let Biggs's record in Congress speak for itself (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has not supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has not supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis

- Has not supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has not supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Voted against the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level (2019)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)
- During his tenure as President of the Arizona State Senate, Biggs introduced legislation that would have prohibited the state from spending any money from its general fund on medical cannabis research. (2014)”

Biggs’ Twitter feed reinforces his regressive views:

- “Democrats are ignoring Biden's inflation, border, and crime crises to focus on a marijuana bill (H.R. 3617). Congress should be focusing on real issues.” (2022)
- The House passed a bill today that legalizes marijuana. That's a major problem. THC concentrations in marijuana have reached dangerous levels and taxpayers are going to be subsidizing their production.” (2022)

In the last two years, Biggs has continued his prohibitionist streak in Congress. In 2020 and 2022, he voted no on two iterations of the MORE Act. In 2021, he voted no on the SAFE Banking Act. Lastly, Biggs was a no vote on the Medical Marijuana Research Act in 2022. Biggs was an F rated candidate in 2020 and we see no reason to alter that grade for 2022.



## Congressional District 6

*The new [Congressional District 6](#) starts in Casa Grande and covers much of southeastern Arizona except for Patagonia and Bisbee. According to political analysts, the district Leans Republican, but it is very much up for grabs in this election cycle.*

### **(D) Kirsten Engel: A**

[Engel](#) is an environmental lawyer, public servant and an educator. She was elected to two terms in the House in LD10 in 2016 and 2018. She was then elected to the Senate in LD10 in 2020 but withdrew from the office in September of 2021 to run for the Congressional seat in Distirct 6. Despite repeated contacts, Engel did not respond to our survey.

Here's what we had to say about Engel in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "Engel responded to our survey and strongly supported all seven statements. Engel has been an ally in the legislature and is always more than willing to meet to discuss cannabis-related issues. An example of her legislative interest in cannabis reform is HB2178, a bill she sponsored in 2020 that sought to provide automatic expungement for marijuana possession. Here's what Engel had to tell us in the survey: "Too many lives have been ruined by the criminalization of the recreational use of marijuana. I support legalization and the expungement of the criminal records of those convicted of marijuana possession. We should legalize, tax and regulate recreational marijuana and ensure that persons from communities most harmed in the past by the criminalization of marijuana, communities of color, benefit economically from this legalization."

In her last year in the legislature, Engel sponsored SB1192 which allowed for school administrators to send students who violated the drug-free school zone to a district program for at-risk students instead of reporting them to law enforcement. She also co-sponsored HB2250 which would have allowed nurse practitioners and physician assistants to qualify medical marijuana patients. Arizona NORML fully supported both these bills.

### **(R) Juan Ciscomani: I**

[Ciscomani](#) is the Senior Advisor for Regional and International Affairs with the Office of the Arizona Governor, Douglas A. Ducey, and he has worked for the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He also ran unsuccessfully in 2008 for a House seat in LD29. This first-time Congressional candidate did not respond to our survey despite myriad contacts. All we could find was several tweets about drug trafficking. Although silence can speak volumes, it is unfortunately not enough to grade Cooper.

## Congressional District 7

*This new district starts as far north as Avondale, stretches southwest to Yuma, and covers the bottom portion of the state until the district's end-point near Bisbee. Although analysts rate [Congressional District 7](#) as Safe/Solid Democratic, it contains a variety of competitive local and state races.*

### **(D) Raul Grijalva: A+**

[Grijalva](#) served on the Tucson Unified School District's Governing Board from 1974 to 1986. He then served as a Pima County Supervisor from 1989 to 2002. Grijalva first won his Congressional seat in what was then District 7 in 2002. Grijalva has served in that capacity until today (the district eventually became District 3). Grijalva is now seeking the Congressional seat in the new District 7. Despite repeated contacts, Grijalva did not respond to our survey.

For a historical perspective, here's what we had to say about Grijalva in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "Grijalva has been a phenomenal advocate relative to cannabis reform for many years. We'll let his record speak for itself (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Co-sponsored the MORE Act, which would end the prohibition of cannabis at the federal level, expunge low-level cannabis convictions and levy a 5% tax on cannabis sales to fund grants for communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. (2020)
- Voted in favor of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the Marijuana Justice Act of 2019, which would end cannabis prohibition at the federal level, expunge federal cannabis convictions, reinvest in the communities that have been most harmed by cannabis prohibition, and penalize states that continue to disproportionately arrest people of color and low-income individuals for cannabis-related crimes. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2017, which would end cannabis prohibition at the federal level. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the CARERS Act of 2017 which would prevent the federal government from interfering with state medical marijuana policy, end the federal prohibition of CBD and

allow VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana for veterans in states where it is legal. (2017)

- Co-sponsored the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which would allow banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the SAFE Act of 2017, which would allow banks to provide services to legitimate cannabis businesses. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the Veterans Equal Access Act, which would allow VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis for veterans in states where it is legal. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the CARERS Act of 2017, which would prevent the federal government from interfering with state medical cannabis policy and end the federal prohibition of CBD. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the Veterans Equal Access Act, which would allow VA doctors to recommend cannabis for veterans in states where it is legal. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the Charlotte's Web Medical Access Act of 2017, which would end the federal prohibition of CBD. (2017)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting medical marijuana patients and providers in states where it is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis for veterans in states where it is legal. (2016)
- Voted in favor of preventing states from penalizing banks for providing financial services to legitimate cannabis businesses. (2014)
- Endorsed the legalization of cannabis in Arizona.

Perhaps, we should take a moment to reflect on Grijalva's body of work relative to cannabis reform!

In the last two years, Grijalva has co-sponsored and voted yes on two incarnations of the MORE Act in 2020 and 2022. He also co-sponsored and voted yes on the SAFE Banking Act in 2021. Grijalva did not vote on the Medical Marijuana Research Act in 2022.

Lastly, here are some choice tweets from this Congressional candidate:

- "The war on drugs has failed. I co-sponsored legislation to end the federal prohibition on marijuana and expunge arrest records for small marijuana-related offenses, giving people who have been harmed by decades of discrimination a chance to start fresh."
- "Black and brown people have felt the brunt of unjust sentences for simple marijuana convictions. This executive action will allow for a fresh start for thousands."

- “Republicans are all about states' rights...until they disagree with the law. Time for Trump admin to respect the will of the people and allow those states that want to regulate marijuana to do so.”
- “Proud to join my colleagues and sign on to the McClintock-Polis Amendment to prevent the DEA from prosecuting anyone for selling, possessing, or using marijuana in compliance with their state laws.”
- “Imposing a War on Drugs Pt. II is not going to make any Americans safer. We need thoughtful approaches to criminal justice reform.”
- “Our criminal justice system needs fairer sentencing, reform of the bail system, and to send fewer nonviolent offenders to prison. Waging a ridiculous war on marijuana just turns the clock back.”
- “The Attorney General’s announcement is a step backward for public safety and a fairer justice system. Cracking down on regulated marijuana is a waste of resources that could be used to fight violent crime and bring down drug cartels.”
- “Trump and Sessions’ unconstitutional pursuit of the death penalty for drug crimes is yet another outrageous example of their commitment to the failed War on Drugs. We need treatment plans & services that help victims get back on their feet. Not executions.”
- “Federal laws criminalizing cannabis are outdated and harmful. Today Congress passed the MORE Act to right the wrongs of the War on Drugs and decriminalize cannabis at the federal level. I joined @soaznorml1 this morning to discuss.”

**(R) Luis Pozzolo: I**

[Pozzolo](#) is a small business owner with a diverse work background. This first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey despite myriad contacts. Sadly, we were unable to find anything relative to Pozzolo and cannabis-related issues in our research. We kept getting soup recipes until we discovered that we had googled Pozole.

## Congressional District 8

*The new [Congressional District 8](#) stretches from the Alhambra neighborhood in Phoenix southwest to Sun City and reaches as far north as Rock Springs. Analysts rate it as Safe/Solid Republican, but as with other congressional districts, there are a multitude of competitive down-ballot elections.*

### **(R) Debbie Lesko: F**

[Lesko](#) first won an Arizona House seat in LD09 in 2008 and won the seat again in 2010. In 2012, she won the House seat in LD21. In 2014, Lesko won the Senate seat in LD21 and kept it in 2016. Lesko then won a special election to serve in Congress in District 8 and then won the general election in 2018. She has continued to serve in capacity until today. She seeks the Congressional seat in the new District 8 this election cycle. Despite repeated attempts to contact her, Lesko did not respond to our survey.

In our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide, we had this to say about Lesko: “Here’s her less than stellar record in Congress (Courtesy of Head Count’s Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has not supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has not supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has not supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Voted against advancing the MORE Act, which would end the prohibition of cannabis at the federal level, expunge low-level cannabis convictions and levy a 5% tax on cannabis sales to fund grants for communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. (2019)
- Voted against the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level (2019)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)
- When activists turned in enough petition signatures to put a cannabis legalization initiative on the Arizona ballot, Lesko tweeted: “Bad news for Arizona. This will only lead to more drug abuse and problems.” (2016)
- Declared her opposition to legalizing recreational cannabis in an op-ed piece. (2016)”

Lesko certainly wasn’t a fan of legalization in 2020. Here’s her **anti-207 missive**: “Eleven states have now legalized marijuana, and not one example is successful. The legalization of marijuana across the country has brought many problems to some states. In Colorado for example, a report found that for every dollar Colorado earns from legal marijuana, the state spends over four times more to combat public health and safety issues. In 2018, California was expected to earn over a billion dollars in tax revenue from the sale of marijuana, and it barely earned a third of what was





projected. Not only are the fiscal projections and impacts worrisome, our roadways will become less safe. Since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, fatal traffic accidents involving stoned drivers have skyrocketed. Someone dies in an accident involving a stoned driver every 2.5 days. Car wreck insurance claims and fatal crashes involving marijuana increased in Colorado and Washington after they legalized recreational marijuana. We have made great strides in making our roadways safer by cracking down on impaired driving. We cannot rollback the gains we have made in driver safety. Some also say that legalization is needed because of over incarceration. However, this couldn't be further from the truth. Of the 42,312 people in an Arizona prison at the end of fiscal year 2019, only 0.5 percent had been sentenced for marijuana possession. Nationally, fewer than 100 people were in a federal prison for marijuana possession in 2017. We don't need this in Arizona. There is no upside to legalizing recreational marijuana. For those who need it for pain or to ease chemo-induced nausea, medical marijuana is legal. That won't change. But why would we want to allow recreational use when we know the harm it will do based on what has happened in other states. I urge you to vote no. Debbie Lesko, Congresswoman, Peoria"

In the last two years, Lesko has continued to maintain her horrific record relative to cannabis. In 2020 and 2022, she voted no on two iterations of the MORE Act. In 2021, she voted no on the SAFE Banking Act, and in 2022 she voted no on the Medical Marijuana Research Act. If it's marijuana, we can count on Lesko to be a no and her 2022 grade continues to reflect that sad reality.

As an alternative to voting for Lesko, voters can write in Alixandria Guzman or Jeremy Spreitzer.

## Congressional District 9

*The new [Congressional District 9](#) covers the western portion of Arizona, stretching from Yuma to the state's northeastern corner, in addition to Buckeye, Surprise, and western Glendale. This race is not particularly competitive, as analysts rate it Solid/Safe Republican.*

### **(R) Paul Gosar: F**

Gosar was first elected to a seat in Congress in District 1 in 2010. Following redistricting, Gosar was then elected to a seat in District 4 in 2012 and has maintained that seat until today. He is seeking the Congressional seat in District 9 this election cycle. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Gosar did not respond to our survey.

For perspective, here's what we had to say about Gosar in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "We'll let Gosar's record speak for itself (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has not supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has not supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has not supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Voted against the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level (2019)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting medical marijuana patients and providers in states where it is legal. (2015)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2015)
- Voted against allowing VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana for veterans in states where it is legal. (2016)
- Voted against preventing states from penalizing banks for providing financial services to legitimate cannabis businesses. (2014)"

In the last two years, Gosar continued to disappoint by voting no on two iterations of the MORE Act in 2020 and 2022. He also voted no on the SAFE Banking Act in 2021. Lastly, Gosar voted no on the Medical Marijuana Research Act in 2022. We'll keep Gosar's grade where it has been for many years, an "F."

## Arizona State House of Representatives

*The Arizona House of Representatives includes 60 representatives from 30 districts across the state. Each district sends two representatives to the State House.*

### **State House Legislative District 1**

#### **(R) Selina Bliss: I**

[Bliss](#) has worked as a nurse and nurse educator. She first ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD01 in 2020 and returns this year for another run at the same seat. Bliss did not respond to our survey and we could not find anything through our research.

#### **(R) Quang Nguyen: D**

[Nguyen](#) has worked for Northrop Corporation and founded Caddis Advertising. He first won a House seat in LD01 in 2020 and is seeking that same seat in this year's election. Quang did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts and a phone conversation.

We were able to find one small piece of information on Nguyen in 2020. In the ivoterguide, Nguyen responded to a statement asking if he supported the legalization of recreational marijuana. Nguyen was in strong disagreement with that statement. While Quang did vote in favor of the marijuana research bill (HB2298) in 2021, he refused to meet with us during our virtual lobby week in 2021 and 2022. Nguyen was a D rated candidate in 2020 and he did flip his yes vote to a no vote upon reconsideration of HB2050 this session, so we see no reason to change his grade this year.

#### **(D) Cathy Ransom: A**

[Ransom](#) is a professional administrator and a micro-business owner. This first-time legislative candidate responded to our survey expressing full support of enhancing the legal market through fairer competition and she agreed to the addition of craft licenses and small business ownership. Recognizing the medicinal value of cannabis, Ransom agreed to adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing the cost of medical marijuana cards. Furthermore, Ransom agreed that expungements should be automatic while offering full support for adding more non-violent cannabis offenses to existing expungement law and defelonizing those types of offenses. Lastly, Ransom was adamant that DCS should not penalize any individual who consumed medical marijuana at the behest of a medical professional while pregnant and she agreed that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.

In addition to her survey responses, Ransom offered this comment: "Marijuana should be treated like liquor; no penalty unless other laws are broken."

**(D) Neal Sinclair: A-**

[Sinclair](#) is a clean water advocate, solar electric system designer and an electric transportation executive. This first-time legislative candidate responded to our survey offering full support for fairer competition in the legal market while agreeing that the market should be enhanced by small business ownership and craft licensing. Sinclair recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis and he strongly agreed that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions while supporting the reduction in cost of medical marijuana cards. Furthermore, Sinclair was in full support of automatic expungements and he agreed that existing expungement law should be expanded to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and that those types of offenses should be defeloned. Lastly, Sinclair agreed that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and that the presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

Sinclair offered the following comment in addition to his survey responses: “Some of your questions involve complex issues. Under ideal circumstances I would appreciate delving deeper into those complexities.”

## Legislative District 2

### **(D) Judy Schwiebert: A**

[Schwiebert](#) is a retired teacher and librarian who also co-founded Theater Works. As a first-time candidate in 2020, she won a House seat in LD20 and returns this year for a run at a House seat in LD02. Schwiebert responded to our survey with full support of enhancing the legal market through fairer competition, craft licensing and small business ownership. She recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis while being in strong agreement that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions and that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. Schwiebert also voiced full support for automatic expungements, ameliorating expungement law to include more non-violent offenses and defelonizing those aforementioned offenses. Lastly, Schwiebert was adamant that DCS should not penalize individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the direction of a medical professional but remained neutral relative to the presence of THC metabolites being used as the sole indicator of impairment. However, Schwiebert added this comment to explain her neutrality: "I am neutral on the question that says, "Individuals should not be convicted of driving under the influence if the only evidence of impairment is THC metabolites in their system." because I need to learn more about this issue before I can give an informed opinion." We appreciate Schwiebert's honesty and we'll certainly help her to learn more regarding this issue.

Lastly, Schwiebert was willing to meet with us to discuss HB2050 and we are truly appreciative of her yes votes on the bill.

### **(R) Justin Wilmeth: B**

[Wilmeth](#) ran successfully for a House seat in LD15 in 2020. He returns this year for a run at a House seat in LD02. Despite repeated contacts, Wilmeth did not respond to our survey. However, Wilmeth was the sponsor of HB2050 which is a bill that Arizona NORML fully supported this legislative session. We appreciate Wilmeth's willingness to allow his bill to become a strike-everything amendment that evolved into an excellent piece of cannabis legislation.

### **(R) Christian Lamar: I**

[Lamar](#) has worked in Information Technology for 21 years. Despite repeated attempts to contact this first-time candidate, he did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research yielded nothing relative to Lamar and cannabis-related issues so we just don't have enough information to rate him.

### State House Legislative District 3

**(R) Alexander Kolodin: I**

[Kolodin](#) is an attorney with the Kolodin Law Group who first ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD23 in 2020. He returns this year with a run for a House seat in LD03. Sadly, Kolodin did not respond to repeated contacts regarding answering our survey. Furthermore, we were unable to find anything relative to Kolodin and cannabis-related issues in our research which precludes our ability to rate him.

**(R) Joseph Chaplik: F**

[Chaplik](#) owns an investment firm and ran successfully for a House seat in LD23 in 2020. He returns this year to run for a House seat in LD03. We tried repeatedly to contact Chaplik, but he did not respond to our survey. We rated Chaplik as a D candidate in 2020 based on the following information: When asked if he supported the legalization of marijuana in iVoterGuide, Chaplik responded that he disagreed with legalization. Without survey responses relative to his positions on cannabis and given the fact that Chaplik has never met with us during his tenure in the House, we would have maintained his grade from 2020. However, Chaplik voted no twice on HB2050 so that forces us to round down his grade this year.

## State House Legislative District 4

### **(D) Laura Terech: A-**

[Terech](#) is a teacher and community organizer running for election in a very competitive district. Although we were unable to rate Terech in our Primary Candidate Guide, she was kind enough to submit survey responses for this guide. Terech agreed strongly with promoting fair competition between licensed businesses as a means to lower prices for consumers. Terech also strongly believes in expanding our expungement program to make it automatic and cover a wider variety of offenses. She further desires to defelonize nonviolent cannabis offenses and agrees that our State should allocate craft licenses for cultivators and manufacturers.

As to certain questions involving cannabis DUIs and the consumption of medical marijuana by pregnant patients, Terech—a new candidate for office—remains agnostic, but we look forward to educating her about these issues in the future.

### **(R) Matt Gress: I**

[Gress](#) served on the Governing Board of the Madison Elementary School District from 2017 to 2021. He currently works in the Arizona’s Governor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting. Despite repeated contacts, this first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey. Sadly, our research did not uncover anything regarding Gress and cannabis-related issues so we are unable to rate him.

### **(R) Maria Syms: F**

[Syms](#) is an attorney who won a House seat in LD28 in 2016 but unsuccessfully ran for that same seat in 2018. She returns this year with a run at a House seat in LD04. Syms did not respond to repeated requests to answer our survey.

In our General Election Candidate Guide in 2018, here’s what we had to say about Syms: “During the 2018 session, Syms was a continuous purveyor of misinformation. Here’s the deceptions she advanced in her AZ Central interview: “We need only to look to the problem associated with recreational marijuana legalization in Colorado to see that it is a bad idea for Arizona. Since legalization, teen use of marijuana has increased by more than 70% of the national average. As a former member of the Governor’s Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership, I understand the social, economic and health problems associated with legalization here in Arizona. In recent months, our public conversation has focused on maximizing the quality of education for Arizona children so they have the best chance to fulfill their potential. Recreational marijuana presents a direct threat to that effort. The increased potency also exposes our citizens to increased health risks, higher traffic fatalities, and increased workplace danger due to impairment. While some contend legalization will bring tax benefits are erased by the increased costs to the state for



health care and social services.”” Wait...was this written in 2018 or in 1948? Since Syms refused to respond to our survey to possibly clarify her views, we’ll curve her 2018 D- down to an F.



## State House Legislative District 5

### **(D) Amish Shah: B**

[Shah](#) first won a House seat in LD24 in 2018 and has retained that seat until today. He is seeking a House seat in LD05 this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact Shah, he did not respond to our survey. Here's what we had to say about Shah in our General Election Candidate Guide in 2020: "Shah did co-sponsor HB2533 in 2020 which attempted to change the language for the class 6 felony possession of marijuana from a speck to 2 pounds relative to fines. The bill changed the language that a judge MAY fine you \$750 as opposed to current language of SHALL fine you \$750. That's a step in the right direction but we'll need more from Shah if reelected."

Unfortunately, Shah has not met with us during our last two lobby weeks. In fact, he kept rescheduling our meetings until the clock hit zero.

Although we rated Shah as a B- candidate in 2020, we give him credit for flipping his HB2050 no vote to a yes vote after speaking with a qualified social equity licensee. We also appreciate his willingness to meet with us to discuss HB2050. For these reasons, we are bumping him up to a B rating.

### **(D) Jennifer Longdon: B-**

[Longdon](#) first won a House seat in LD24 in 2018 and was reelected to that seat in 2020. She is now running for a House seat in LD05. Longdon has been a long-time advocate and supporter in the legislature who actually worked in the early days of the industry (for better or worse).

Despite voting twice against the wishes of legitimate social equity licensees, Longdon responded to our survey in strong support of enhancing fair competition in the legal market and support for small business ownership and craft licenses. She recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis while fully supporting adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing the cost of medical marijuana cards. Longdon was equally supportive of automatic expungements, adding more non-violent cannabis offenses to expungement law and defelonizing those types of offenses. Lastly, Longdon was adamant that DCS should not penalize individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and agreed that THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment. In fact, she supported her position with this sentiment: "Individuals should not be convicted of driving under the influence if the only evidence of impairment is THC metabolites in their system. However, as recognized in Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-2852(B), driving while impaired by marijuana to even the slightest degree is not acceptable."



In addition, Longdon submitted the following comment regarding the legal market: “It is important that diverse entrepreneurs and small business owners have a level playing field to enter the marijuana industry.”

We do appreciate Longdon’s responses to our survey, but actions matter most. Were it not for Longdon’s failure to discuss HB2050 with us, and the thundering echo of industry talking points she delivered during a critical time in June, Longdon’s rating would be significantly higher.

We hope she will be more attentive to the needs of patients, consumers, and entrepreneurs in the future.

**(R) Jennifer Treadwell: I**

[Treadwell](#) is running as a write-in candidate this year for a House seat in LD05. This first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey. Sadly, our research was insufficient in finding anything relative to Treadwell and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate her at this time.



## State House Legislative District 6

### **(D) Myron Tsosie: C**

[Tsosie](#) first won a House seat in LD07 in 2018 and he has maintained that seat until today. He returns this year with a run for a House seat in LD06. Tsosie also serves on the Chinle Unified School District School Board. He did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts at contact. Tsosie has not sponsored or co-sponsored any cannabis-related bills in his tenure in the House. He has met with us once in the last two years during one of our lobby weeks. We just don't have a real understanding as to where Tsosie stands on cannabis-related issues but he did vote yes on HB2050 this session so we see promise in working with Tsosie into the future.

### **(D) Mae Peshlakai: I**

We could not find a campaign website or related social media platforms for Peshlakai. She appears to be a first-time legislative candidate who works with silversmithing. Peshlakai did not respond to our survey despite email attempts to reach her. Unfortunately, our research found nothing relative to Peshlakai and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate her at this time.

## State House Legislative District 7

### **(R) David Cook: C-**

[Cook](#) first won a House seat in 2016 in LD08 and has maintained that seat until today. He is seeking a House seat in LD07 this election cycle. Cook did not respond to our survey even though we contacted him by phone and emails.

Here's what we had to say about Cook in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "Relative to a September 8, 2020 General Election LD08 Candidate Debate sponsored by the AZCCEC, the Pinal Central wrote this about Cook: 'Cook said he would not be voting for the initiative. The situation should have been handled in the Legislature, he said. There are also unanswered questions about what to do with all of the people who have been convicted for marijuana violations who are currently sitting in jail. He suggests an ad hoc committee to research the situation and contact other states, such as Colorado, that have legalized marijuana.'"

We continued: "We like that Cook is willing to consider legalization through the legislature but that just didn't work out really well in the last legislative session. Lastly, we were not pleased to see Cook as a co-sponsor of the disastrous bill HCR2045 this year that sought a 2% THC cap for the medical marijuana program. We'll give Cook the benefit of the doubt relative to his grade because he has been supportive of hemp and testing in the past."

Without survey responses to allow us to ascertain where Cook stands today on cannabis-related issues, and given the fact that he flipped to a no vote on reconsideration relative to HB2050, we'll add a minus to his 2020 grade for this year.

### **(R) David Marshall: I**

[Marshall](#) is a first-time legislative candidate who has served in the United States Air Force and was a law enforcement officer with the Santa Ana Police Department. He has also managed a safe house for battered women and is currently an ordained minister. Marshall did not respond to our survey despite myriad contacts. Sadly, our research did not yield any results relative to Marshall and cannabis-related issues so we simply cannot rate him at this time.

## State House Legislative District 8

### (D) Melody Hernandez: A+

[Hernandez](#) is a first responder who first won a House seat in LD26 in 2020. She returns this year for a run at a House seat in LD08, after a term that saw her become one of our greatest allies in the legislature.



She responded to our survey offering full support to enhancing the legal market through fairer competition, small business ownership and craft licensing. Recognizing the medicinal value of cannabis, Hernandez strongly agreed that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions and that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. Furthermore, Hernandez lent full-throated support to automatic expungements, ameliorating current expungement law to include more non-violent offense as well as defelonizing those types of offenses. Lastly, Hernandez was adamant the DCS should not penalize individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant and she strongly agreed that the presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

Hernandez was more than willing to discuss HB2050 with us this year and we truly appreciate her full support and her yes votes on that bill. In general, whenever we request a meeting, she almost always says yes, and in fact, Hernandez attended our organization's first-ever expungement clinic in June 2021.

### (D) Athena Salman: A+

[Salman](#) first won a House seat in LD26 in 2016 and has maintained that seat until today. She is back this year with a run for a House seat in LD08. Salman responded to our survey by expressing strong support for a legal market with fairer competition, craft licensing and small business ownership. Recognizing the medicinal value of cannabis, Salman strongly agreed that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions and she supported the idea that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. Furthermore, she offered full-throated support for automatic expungements as well as adding more non-violent cannabis offenses to existing expungement law and defelonizing those types of offenses. Lastly, Salman was adamant that DCS should never



penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the recommendation of a medical professional and that the presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

Despite spending much of the last legislative session at home with her newborn child, Salman made a special trip to the capitol to vote yes twice on HB2050—showing how much she cares about the cannabis community. We truly appreciate Salman’s willingness to discuss the bill with us and her full support.

**(R) Caden Darrow: A**

[Darrow](#) works in the retail jewelry industry and engages in volunteerism. This first-time legislative candidate responded to our survey by expressing full support to ameliorate the legal market through fairer competition, craft licensing and small business ownership. Darrow acknowledges the medicinal value of cannabis while strongly supporting the addition of Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and the reduction of medical marijuana card costs. While Darrow was neutral on automatic expungements, he offered full-throated support to enhancing expungement law through the addition of more non-violent cannabis offenses and defelonizing those offenses. Lastly, Darrow agreed that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana at the direction of a medical professional while pregnant but remained neutral on allowing the mere presence of THC metabolites to be the sole indicator of impairment.

**(R) Bill Loughrige: F**

In LD08, a district that is staggeringly friendly to cannabis consumers, Loughrige is the exception that proves the rule. In 2022, he ignored our outreach for this guide, which is par for the course. In fact, in 2020, he took our call before he rudely hung up on our volunteer.

Accordingly, we were forced to resort to other research methods that yielded the following analysis of his candidacy: “[T]he iVoterguide revealed how Loughrige views the legalization of marijuana. Loughrige was in strong disagreement relative to his support of legalization. Given his incivility to our volunteer, his strong opposition to legalization and his unwillingness to respond to our survey to clarify his views, Loughrige leaves us no choice but to grade him harshly.” Without new information or survey responses, we’ll assume Loughrige hasn’t changed much since 2020 and maintain his grade from that year.

## State House Legislative District 9

### **(D) Lorena Austin: A**

Austin has worked in the public, private and non-profit sectors. She is a first-time legislative candidate who responded to our survey in strong agreement with more fair competition, more small businesses, and—to that end—injecting “craft” licenses in the industry.

Additionally, Austin is a strong advocate for the medical marijuana program. She strongly agreed that marijuana has accepted medical uses, that autism spectrum disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions, and that the cost of a medical marijuana card should be no greater than the cost of processing applications.

Austin further supports defelonizing non-violent cannabis offenses and expanding our expungement program to make it automatic and cover more offenses. Finally, she strongly agrees that pregnant medical marijuana patients who consume cannabis at their doctors’ orders should not be penalized by the Department of Child Services.

To explain her views more fully, Austin offered the following comment: “As marijuana has been legalized within the state of Arizona, it's imperative that we work towards creating a more equitable landscape for all cannabis consumers, especially those from marginalized communities who have been unfairly persecuted. We must expand expungement laws, create a more accepting culture, and ensure the fairness and competitiveness of the market. I am happy to answer any follow up questions about this matter, as I am very passionate about the future and potential of the cannabis industry in our state.”

### **(R) Mary Ann Mendoza: C**

Mendoza is a first-time candidate who responded to our survey in agreement that there should be fairer competition and small business ownership in the legal market. She was also in agreement that cannabis has medicinal value and supported adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions as well as reducing the costs of medical marijuana cards. Mendoza was neutral on automatic expungements and expanding expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses but was supportive of defelonizing non-violent cannabis offenses. Lastly, Mendoza remained neutral on whether DCS should penalize individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the direction of a medical professional and agreed that THC metabolites should be the sole indicator of impairment.

**(D) Seth Blattman: C**

[Blattman](#) works in his family furniture business and first ran for the Senate seat in LD23 in 2020. He returns this year with a run at a House seat in LD09. Blattman responded to our survey expressing support for fairer competition in the legal market, but he remained neutral relative to the addition of craft licensing and small business ownership. Although Blattman recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis, he was neutral regarding adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing the cost of medical marijuana cards. Furthermore, Blattman agreed that expungements should be automatic while offering full support of enhancing current expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and he agreed that those types of offenses should be defeloned. Lastly, Blattman remained neutral relative to DCS punishing people who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the direction of a medical professional and he maintained neutrality with regard to the presence of THC metabolites being used as the sole indicator of impairment.

**(R) Kathy Pearce: I**

[Pearce](#) runs a nonprofit that assists returning veterans. Pearce first ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD25 in 2020 and returns this year with a run for a House seat in LD09. Pearce did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts. Sadly, we could not find anything related to Pearce and cannabis in our research so we simply cannot rate her at this time.





## State House Legislative District 10

### **(D) Helen Hunter: A-**

[Hunter](#) has worked in underserved populations for over 30 years and has served in roles as an organizer, social justice advocate, pastor, chaplain and businesswoman. Hunter first ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD16 in 2020. She returns this year for a run at a House seat in LD10.

In response to our inquiries, Hunter responded to Arizona NORML's Candidate Survey, expressing her agreement that lack of competition in the industry is a problem and her strong agreement that "craft" licensing is potentially a good solution. In addition, Hunter indicated strong support for the medical program, as she stated she strongly agrees that marijuana has accepted medical uses, that autism spectrum disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions, and that the cost of a court should not be greater than the cost of processing card applications. Finally, Hunter opposes the Department of Child Safety's treatment of certain medical marijuana patients, and she wants to expand our expungement program while reducing the number of felony cannabis offenses.

### **(R) Justin Heap: I**

[Heap](#) is a first-time legislative candidate running for a House seat in LD10. His campaign does not have a website and he did not provide any contact information for his campaign in the Arizona Secretary of State candidate listings. With no way to contact Heap and having found nothing on him regarding our research, we cannot rate him at this time.

### **(R) Barbara Parker: I**

Unfortunately, we couldn't find a campaign website or concomitant social media platforms for Parker. This first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey regardless of our repeated contacts and our research did not uncover anything relative to Parker and cannabis-related issues. Therefore, we cannot rate her at this time.

## State House Legislative District 11

### **(D) Marcelino Quiñonez: A+**

[Quiñonez](#) has been a drama teacher and served on the Governing Board of the Roosevelt Elementary School District. He unsuccessfully ran for a House seat in LD27 in 2014 and was appointed to his current House seat in LD27 in December of 2021. He is running for a House seat in LD11 in this election cycle.



Quiñonez responded to our survey expressing full support for enhancing the legal market through fairer competition, craft licensing and small business ownership. While recognizing the medicinal value of cannabis, Quiñonez was in strong agreement relative to adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and the reduction of medical marijuana card costs. Furthermore, he was steadfast in his support of automatic expungements and improving existing expungement law by adding more non-violent cannabis offenses. Furthermore, Quiñonez agreed that non-violent cannabis offenses should be defeloned. Lastly, he was neutral on having DCS punish individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and he remained neutral on whether the presence of THC metabolites alone constitute impairment. We can certainly discuss these issues with Quiñonez as he has been more than willing to meet with us this legislative session.

In addition to his survey responses, Quiñonez offered this powerful statement: “Thank you Arizona NORML for your advocacy and leadership. I have enjoyed our working relationship and look forward to the opportunity to continue expanding on our efforts.” As do we!

We would be remiss if we didn’t mention Quiñonez’s engagement in the HB2050 conversation and his willingness to discuss the bill at length with us this session. We are also truly appreciative of his yes votes on HB2050, as well as his general readiness to share his time with advocates and activists.

### **(D) Oscar De Los Santos: A**

[De Los Santos](#) works in public policy and is a first-time legislative candidate this year. He responded to our survey in strong support of enhancing the legal market through fairer competition and the addition of craft licenses and small business ownership. Recognizing the medicinal value of cannabis, De Los Santos fully agreed to adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing the cost of medical marijuana cards. Furthermore,

he strongly believes in automatic expungements as well as ameliorating expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and defelonizing those aforementioned offenses. Lastly, De Los Santos agrees that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the recommendation of a medical professional and he fully supports not using the mere presence of THC metabolites as the sole indicator of impairment.

De Los Santos offered the following narrative in addition to his survey responses: “Oscar De Los Santos was born to working-class immigrant parents. He's dedicated his life and career to public service and progressive values. As a teacher at a low-income school in South Phoenix, he's been on the frontlines of the fight for better-funded schools and better teacher pay. As head of public policy at the Association of Arizona Food Banks, he represented Arizona's 1,200 food banks and food pantries in the Arizona Legislature and in Congress. He fought for state laws that promote economic justice—and won. Working in partnership with local community groups, the legislature, and the governor, he successfully led the fight to pass a bill that doubled the state's cash assistance program for low-income families. He also spearheaded a coalition that passed legislation to restore access to food assistance programs for people with felony records, including felonies related to marijuana possession and use. Today, Oscar works at the Arizona Democracy Resource Center, where he helps support free Marijuana Expungement Clinics for our community that help restore community members' civil and voting rights. Before working on public policy in Arizona, Oscar served in the Obama White House, where he worked for one of President Obama's senior economic advisors, gaining valuable experience in national economic affairs. Oscar has been recognized locally and internationally for his leadership. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, earned a master of public policy at the University of Oxford, and was invited by the White House to a private meeting with President Obama. In office, Oscar will fight for a fully-funded education system, to reform our criminal justice system, and to bring good jobs with living wages to our community.”

**(R) Tatiana Peña: I**

[Peña](#) is an educator and musician who first ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD27 in 2020. She returns this year with a run for a House seat in LD11. Despite repeated attempts to contact Peña, she did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research did not yield anything relevant to Peña and cannabis-related issues so we are unable to rate her at this time.

## State House Legislative District 12

### **(D) Anastasia Travers: A**

[Travers](#) is a veteran of the United States Army who has worked with AMVETS as an advocate for veterans' issues regarding women, homelessness and the disabled. The first-time legislative candidate responded to our survey expressing full support for fairer competition in the legal market as well as improvements through the addition of craft licenses and small business ownership. Travers understands the medicinal value of cannabis while being in strong agreement that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions and that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. Travers was steadfast in her support of automatic expungements, enhancing expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and defelonizing those types of offenses. Lastly, Travers was adamant that DCS should never penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana at the behest of a medical professional while pregnant and that the mere presence of THC metabolites should never be the sole indicator of impairment.

### **(D) Patricia Contreras: A**

[Contreras](#) recently retired from the City of Phoenix and is seeking office for the first time. She quickly responded to our survey with support for enhancing fair competition and allowing small business ownership in the legal market. Contreras strongly agreed to there being medicinal uses of cannabis, adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing the cost of medical marijuana cards. Furthermore, she offered full support of automatic expungements, expanding expungeable non-violent cannabis offenses as well as defelonizing those offenses. Contreras was very clear that she did not support DCS penalizing individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant. Lastly, Contreras was neutral relative to the presence of THC metabolites being used as the sole indication of impairment. However, Contreras offered this explanation as to her stance: "I indicated neutral on this question, "Individuals should not be convicted of driving under the influence if the only evidence of impairment is THC metabolites in their system" mainly because I am not familiar with what impairments occur when THC metabolites are in a person's system and how age, size, gender, or amount affects people differently. I need more information on this question to answer responsibly." We certainly appreciate her honesty and will work to get Contreras up to speed on this issue.

### **(R) James Chaston: C+**

[Chaston](#) has worked in accounting for over 30 years and is the owner of a CPA firm. This first-time legislative candidate responded to our survey expressing strong support for parental rights, particularly those of medical marijuana patients who consume cannabis at their doctor's orders,

and agreeing that marijuana has accepted medical uses. Chaston also expressed support for expanding our expungement program to cover more individuals (though he believes expungement should not be automatic). However, Chaston's grade suffered due to his opposition to defelonizing more non-violent cannabis offenses.

**(R) Terry Roe: C**

[Roe](#) is a retired peace officer who currently serves on the Chandler City Council having first been elected as an at-large member in 2014. Roe responded to our survey remaining neutral to ideas to ameliorate the legal market such as fairer competition, small business ownership and craft licensing. Recognizing the medicinal value of cannabis, Roe agreed to the reduction of medical marijuana card costs while expressing neutrality relative to adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions. Furthermore, Roe was in support of both automatic expungements and enhancing expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses but he remained neutral as to defelonizing such offenses. Lastly, Roe was in agreement that the presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment but he disagreed that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the recommendation of a medical professional.

## State House Legislative District 13

### **(D) Jennifer Pawlik: C**

[Pawlik](#) first ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD17 in 2016 but then won a House seat in LD17 in 2018 and has maintained that seat until today. She is seeking a House seat in LD13 this election cycle. Despite repeated attempts to contact her, Pawlik did not respond to our survey. An article in the Copper Courier on October 8th, 2020 stated the following regarding Pawlik: “Pawlik said she opposes the use of recreational marijuana and plans to vote against Prop 207.”

Furthermore, here’s what Arizona NORML reported relative to Pawlik in 2018: “On cannabis, Pawlik told AZCentral that she does not back legalization: ‘No, however, I am in favor of decriminalizing marijuana which would help to reduce our huge prison population.’ In 2016, Pawlik was asked if she supported legalization via Prop 205. Pawlik stated that she did not support Prop 205 and wrote: ‘I oppose the marijuana ballot proposition. Because legalized marijuana is a relatively new idea, long-term studies to report on the impact of legalization have yet to be completed. Short-terms studies in Washington State have shown an increase in traffic fatalities linked to marijuana usage and homeless rates and the need for social services have dramatically increased in Colorado.’”

Clearly, Pawlik does not favor adult-use legalization, but she does meet with us during our lobby week each year and voted yes twice on HB2050 earlier this year.

### **(R) Liz Harris: D+**

[Harris](#) is a real estate broker/business owner who first ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD17 in 2020. She is back this year with a run for a House seat in LD13. We actually spoke with Harris and she stated that she would respond to our survey. In fact, we sent an email to her with the survey link and she replied: “You aren’t going to like my answers...Sorry!” That certainly piqued our interest but Harris offered no further communication and never responded to our survey.

We were able to find one quote from Harris regarding legalization that appeared in the Copper Courier on October 8th, 2020: “Harris said that, while she supports the use of medicinal marijuana... she does not support expanding its legal use for recreational purposes.

With her lack of support for full legalization and her unwillingness to respond to our survey for clarity on her positions, we’ll grade Harris accordingly.

**(R) Julie Willoughby: I**

[Willoughby](#) is a Trauma ER RN who first ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD17 in 2018. She returns this year with a run for a House seat in LD13. Willoughby did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact her. Unfortunately, our research did not uncover anything related to Willoughby and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate her at this time.

## State House Legislative District 14

### **(D) Brandy Reese: A-**

Reese is a first-time candidate who has worked as a forensic scientist. She responded to our survey in strong agreement that fairer competition would enhance the legal market as well as provide more tax revenue and she supported the idea of adding craft licenses and small business ownership to that market. Reese recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis while fully supporting adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and agreeing that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. Furthermore, she strongly supported automatic expungements and expanding expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and she agreed to defelonizing those offenses. Finally, Reese insisted that DCS should not penalize individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the recommendation of a medical professional and agreed that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

Additionally, Reese offered the following comments to supplement her responses: “From Oct 1997 through June 1998, I was employed as a marijuana analyst in the Drug ID Unit of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. My personal feelings about marijuana and its medicinal and recreational uses aside, as a Schedule I illegal substance, my job required the analysis and identification of marijuana for criminal prosecution. Since then, I have become aware of the growing body of scientific evidence that has shown that there are many appropriate medical applications for marijuana use. Further, the decriminalization of marijuana would have many positive societal benefits including decreased strain on police resources, decreased incarcerations and prison spending, and increased resources from taxation and regulation.”

### **(R) Travis Grantham: C-**

[Grantham](#) first ran unsuccessfully for US House in 2012 in Congressional District 9. He returned in 2016 to win a House seat in LD12 and has continued in that seat until today. He is seeking a House seat in LD14 in this election cycle. Despite repeated contacts, Grantham did not respond to our survey.

Here’s what we had to say about Grantham in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: “Grantham was quoted in [azmarijuana.com](#) this year regarding legalization: ‘Grantham believes a legislative approach for major laws, such as legalizing marijuana for adult use, makes more sense.’ In addition, Grantham told AZ Central in 2018: ‘The recreational use of marijuana and the effects of those in close proximity to the product is problematic. Additionally, I do believe that some steps towards decriminalization can and should be taken.’”



We'd certainly like to see Grantham committed to more than just decriminalization and we are disappointed that he was a no vote on HB2050 this session.

**(R) Laurin Hendrix: C-**

We could not locate a campaign website or associated social media platforms for Hendrix. Hendrix won a House seat in LD22 in 2008 but lost that seat in the 2010 election. In 2016, Hendrix won a seat on the Maricopa County Community College District, District 1 but lost that seat in the 2020 election. Hendrix also won a seat on the Gilbert City Council in a special primary election in 2020. He returns this year for a run at a House seat in LD14. Despite repeated contacts, Hendrix did not respond to our survey.

Hendrix has acknowledged in more than one article that he voted against Prop 207. However, he was the only dissenting vote on a Gilbert Town Council set of amendments that sought to address safety issues surrounding residential marijuana cultivation and extractions. With just this amount of information, we'll mark Hendrix down for a no vote on Prop 207 but congratulate him for acknowledging the will of voters and casting a dissenting vote on those amendments.

## State House Legislative District 15

### (R) Jacqueline Parker: D-

[Parker](#) has practiced law in a private firm and has been a legal policy advisor. She successfully ran for a House seat in LD16 in 2020 and returns this year for a run at a House seat in LD15. Despite repeated attempts, Parker did not respond to our survey.

Here's what we had to say about her in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "Parker did not respond to our survey despite attempts to reach her via phone and email. In the ivoterguide, Parker was asked if she supported the legalization of recreational marijuana. She strongly disagreed [with] legalization." Given her lack of support for legalization as well as the fact that Parker has refused to meet with us for both of our lobby weeks during her legislative tenure, we'll keep Parker's grade close to where it was in 2020 but tack on a minus given her no votes on HB2050 this session.

### (R) Neal Carter: D-

Carter is an attorney who has also worked for a tech company. He was appointed to a House seat in LD08 in October of 2021 and returns this year for a run at a House seat in LD15. Carter responded to our survey and was neutral regarding fairer competition in the legal market but he disagreed that the market should be enhanced by small business ownership and craft licensing. Carter strongly disagreed that there are acceptable medical uses for marijuana. Yep...you read correctly... ***Carter strongly disagrees that there are acceptable medical uses for marijuana.*** Moving back into the 21st century, Carter was adamant that Autism Spectrum Disorder should not be added to the list of qualifying conditions, but he strongly agreed to the reduction of medical marijuana card costs. Carter remained neutral relative to automatic expungements and defeloning more non-violent cannabis offenses, although he did agree to expanding expungement law to include more of those non-violent cannabis offenses. Lastly, Carter expressed a belief that DCS should penalize anyone who consumes medical marijuana while pregnant, regardless of whether their doctor orders the consumption, and he was neutral as to whether the mere presence of THC metabolites should be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

## State House Legislative District 16

### **(R) Teresa Martinez: I**

[Martinez](#) has a long history of working in politics and was appointed to a House seat in LD11 in October of 2021. She returns for a run at a House seat in LD16 this election cycle. Despite repeated attempts at contact, Martinez did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, she hasn't served long enough at the legislature for us to see any patterns in her voting or bills that she supports and our research was insufficient to provide her with a rating even though she was no vote twice on HB2050.

That being said, we were encouraged that in response to inquiries about our survey, Martinez expressed a strong interest in meeting with us to discuss the upcoming legislative session. While she has held the office for a limited time, she appears to have some interest in our marijuana laws and a desire to work with advocates to advance the cause of freedom.

### **(R) Rob Hudelson: I**

[Hudelson](#) is a pastor and first-time legislative candidate who served on the Coolidge City Council. We spoke with Hudelson and he was unable to complete the survey at this time. Sadly, our research did not uncover anything relative to Hudelson and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate him.

### **(D) Keith Seaman: I**

[Seaman](#) is a first-time legislative candidate and is Vice President of the Coolidge Unified School District board. This retired educator did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact him. Sadly, our research did yield anything relative to Seaman and cannabis-related issues so we are unable to rate him at this time.

## State House Legislative District 17

### **(R) Cory McGarr: B+**

[McGarr](#) works in pest control and is a first-time candidate this year. He responded to our survey by agreeing that the legal market would benefit from fairer competition, craft licenses and small business ownership. McGarr strongly agreed that there are acceptable medical uses for cannabis and that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions while agreeing that medical marijuana card costs should be reduced. Furthermore, McGarr agreed that expungements should be automatic and include more non-violent cannabis offenses as well as defelonizing those aforementioned offenses. Lastly, he was in agreement that DCS should not penalize individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the advice of a medical professional and that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.

### **(D) Brian Radford: B**

[Radford](#) is a former Special Education Teacher's Assistant and a recently retired Corrections Officer. He ran unsuccessfully in 2020 for the Pima County Board of Supervisors in District 1. He returns this year with a run at a House seat in LD17. Radford responded to our survey offering strong support for fairer competition in the legal market and was in agreement that the aforementioned market should be enhanced through small business ownership and craft licensing. Radford recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis and was in agreement that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions and that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. Furthermore, Radford supported automatic expungements and enhancing expungement law by adding more non-violent cannabis offenses while strongly agreeing to defelonizing those types of cannabis offenses. Lastly, Radford disagreed that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional but he agreed that the presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.

### **(R) Rachel Jones: I**

[Jones](#) has a background in business management and is a first-time legislative candidate. Jones did not respond to our survey despite myriad attempts to contact her. Unfortunately, our research did not uncover anything relative to Jones and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate her at this time.

### **(D) Dana Allmond: I**

Allmond is a veteran, veterans advocate and a graduate of the United States Military Academy. Despite repeated contacts, this first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey.



Sadly, our research did not yield anything regarding Allmond and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate her at this time.

## State House Legislative District 18

### **(D) Nancy Gutierrez: A**

[Gutierrez](#) is a yoga teacher at Tucson High School and is a first-time candidate seeking a House seat in LD18. She responded to our survey in strong agreement that the legal market would benefit from fairer competition and enhanced through craft licenses and small business ownership. Gutierrez is fully aware of the medicinal value of cannabis and strongly supports the addition of Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions as well as the reduction of medical marijuana card costs. Furthermore, she completely agreed that expungements should be automatic and that expungement law should be expanded to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and that those offenses should be defeloned. Lastly, Gutierrez was adamant that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and she supported the idea that the presence of THC metabolites should not be the used as the sole indicator of impairment.

In addition to her survey responses, Gutierrez offered the following comments: “I appreciate the work that you all do and I appreciate your time to teach me about these issues. I am a public school teacher running for the AZ State House in LD18 to fight for fully funding public education. I believe that our right to vote is sacred and that voting should be convenient. I will fight for the right to have autonomy over our own bodies and to make decisions about abortion without the government. We must protect our water in Arizona and I will work to do that. Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate it.”

Gutierrez reached out to us relative to the survey and we were able to meet with her for over an hour to discuss cannabis issues. She was more than willing to learn and was fully engaged in our discussion. We certainly appreciate any candidate willing to take the time to understand the issues that they will face while in office and applaud Gutierrez for her diligence and concern.

### **(R) Linda Evans: I**

[Evans](#) has written plays and musicals. This first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey even though we emailed her myriad times. Unfortunately, our research did not uncover anything relative to Evans and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate her at this time.

### **(D) Chris Mathis: I**

[Mathis](#) teaches health care law at the University of Arizona and was appointed to a House seat in LD09 in December of 2021. He returns this year with a run for a House seat in LD18. Despite myriad contacts, Mathis did not respond to our survey. He did meet with us during our lobby week this year. We regret that Mathis flipped his yes vote to a no vote on HB2050 in



reconsideration, but we just don't have enough information to determine where precisely Mathis falls, although we would likely rate him somewhere between a C+ and a B+ based on our experience working with him.

## State House Legislative District 19

### **(D) Sanda Clark: A**

[Clark](#) is a retired concert pianist running for the first time this year. She responded to our survey and offered her support of promoting a legal market steeped in fairer competition and welcoming of small business ownership. Clark clearly recognizes the medicinal use of cannabis and was very supportive of adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions as well as reducing medical marijuana card fees. Furthermore, Clark was fully supportive of defelonizing non-violent cannabis offenses and expanding expungement law to include more of these offenses. She was also supportive of automatic expungements. Lastly, Clark agreed that the presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment and she professed full support for DCS not being able to punish individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant. Clark provided the following statement in addition to her survey responses: “I have known several people that battled cancer who were aided greatly by using marijuana. For some it is a God 's sent.”

### **(R) Lupe Diaz: D+**

[Diaz](#) is a pastor and member of the Benson City Council. He was appointed to a House seat in LD14 in November of 2021, and he is seeking a House seat in LD19 in this election cycle. Despite repeated contacts, Diaz did not respond to our survey. Diaz was one of six Benson City Council members who voted this year to adopt Ordinance 608 which called for the prohibition of a recreational marijuana facility in Benson. That just doesn't reflect very well on Diaz's perspective relative to marijuana. However, he did flip to a yes vote on HB2050 during reconsideration in the House this year, in addition to meeting with us shortly after our Lobby Week, so we will give him the benefit of the doubt and add a plus to his grade.

### **(R) Gail Griffin: F**

[Griffin](#) has been involved in Arizona politics for many years. She served in the House from 1997 to 2001. Griffin then won a Senate seat in LD25 in 2010. In 2012, she won a Senate seat in LD14 and maintained that seat until 2016. Griffin then returned to the House in LD14 in 2018 has maintained that seat until today. She is running for a House seat in LD19 this election cycle. Griffin did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts.

Here's what we had to say about Griffin in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: “Despite numerous calls and emails, Griffin did not respond to our survey. We really don't need survey responses to grade Griffin. She is a staunch opponent who doesn't even support medical marijuana. In 2018 caucus speeches, she equated cannabis with heroin and medical marijuana patients with junkies. In 2016, she opposed legalization in an Arizona Trucking Association





Candidate Survey. She has opposed lower medical marijuana card costs and was a co-sponsor this year of the dreaded HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% cap on THC in the medical marijuana program). Griffin gives new meaning to the words “term limits.””

Since Griffin didn’t respond to our survey again this year, we have no evidence of change relative to her perspective on marijuana. Furthermore, she voted no twice on HB2050 this session. Therefore, we’ll keep her grade where it was two years ago.

## State House Legislative District 20

### **(D) Andrés Cano: B+**

[Cano](#) first won a House seat in LD03 in 2018 and maintained that seat in the 2020 election. He returns this year for a run at a House seat in LD20. Cano responded to our survey expressing strong agreement for improving the legal market through fairer competition, small business ownership and craft licensing. In addition to acknowledging the medicinal value of cannabis, Cano offered full-throated support for adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing the current cost of medical marijuana cards. Furthermore, he fully backed automatic expungements as well as adding more non-violent cannabis offenses to existing expungement law and defelonizing those kinds of offenses. Lastly, Cano agreed that DCS should not penalize any individual who consumed medical marijuana at the direction of a medical professional while pregnant but he remained neutral on whether or not the presence of THC metabolites should be the sole indicator of impairment.

We were disappointed in Cano's flip relative to his vote on HB2050. Cano was initially a yes vote but switched to no on reconsideration. We are appreciative of Cano's support in the legislature but we must hold him accountable for that no vote and drop his A to a B+.

### **(D) Alma Hernandez: B**

[Hernandez](#) first won a House seat in LD03 in 2018 and has maintained that seat until today. She returns this year for a run at a House seat in LD20. Despite repeated contacts, Hernandez did not respond to our survey. While Hernandez has met with us during our lobby weeks and has been supportive in the legislature, we'd really like to ascertain her thoughts relative to the statements in our survey. Without that, we'll maintain her grade from 2020. We do appreciate this quote which appeared in the Tucson Weekly on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018: "Additionally, Hernandez [opposes] the incarceration of nonviolent drug offenders, especially marijuana users. She said the state is spending money on incarcerating people who smoke weed instead of funding education programs. She also opposes private prisons."

Hernandez did not meet with us to discuss HB2050 and could not be bothered to travel to the Capitol and vote on the bill despite its importance to rural patients, social equity licensees, and everyday patients/consumers who are concerned about the accuracy of test results. We would have liked to have seen her more engaged on this important bill during the session.

## State House Legislative District 21

### **(D) Stephanie Stahl Hamilton: A+**

[Stahl Hamilton](#) is an ordained minister who first won a House seat in LD10 in 2020. She was then appointed to the Senate seat in LD10 in October of 2021. She returns this year with a run at a House seat in LD21. Stahl Hamilton responded to our survey in agreement that the legal market would be enhanced by fairer competition, craft licensing and small business ownership. She understands the medicinal value of cannabis and is fully supportive of adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing the cost of medical marijuana cards. Furthermore, Stahl Hamilton offered unwavering support for automatic expungements as well as enhancing existing expungement law through the addition of more non-violent cannabis offenses and the defelonizing those types of offenses. Lastly, Stahl Hamilton was steadfast that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and strongly agreed that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.



We truly appreciate Stahl Hamilton's willingness to meet with us to discuss HB2050 and her yes vote on the bill to move it out of the Senate this session.

### **(D) Consuelo Hernandez: A**

[Hernandez](#) is currently Board President for the Sunnyside Unified School District's Governing Board having won a seat on that board in 2018. She ran unsuccessfully for the Pima County Board of Supervisors in District 5 in 2020. She is seeking a House seat in LD21 in this election cycle. We did the survey with Hernandez on a Zoom call and were able to discuss cannabis-related issues in Arizona as well. Hernandez expressed full support for ameliorating the legal market through fairer competition, small business ownership and craft licensing. She recognized the medicinal value of cannabis while offering strong agreement to the addition of Autism Spectrum Disorder and the reduction in cost of medical marijuana cards. Furthermore, she voiced strong support for automatic expungements while agreeing that existing law should be expanded to include more non-violent cannabis offenses. Additionally, she was in full support of defelonizing non-violent cannabis offenses. Lastly, Hernandez was adamant that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana at the behest of a medical professional while pregnant and agreed that the presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.

**(R) Damien Kennedy: A-**

[Kennedy](#) has worked in the cannabis industry for over four years in strain acquisition, development and management. He is running this year as a write-in candidate for a House seat in LD21. We could not find a campaign website or related social media platforms for Kennedy. However, Kennedy did respond to our survey and he agreed that the legal market should be enhanced through fairer competition and he strongly supported the addition of small business ownership and craft licensing. Kennedy recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis, and he agreed that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions while offering full-throated support for the reduction in cost of medical marijuana cards. Furthermore, Kennedy was in support of automatic expungements as well as expanding our expungement laws to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and defeloning those types of offenses. Lastly, Kennedy was adamant that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana at the recommendation of a medical professional while pregnant and he agreed that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

**(R) Deborah McEwen: B-**

[McEwen](#) has an extensive background in criminal justice and first ran for a House seat in LD02 in 2020. She returns this year with a run at a House seat in LD21 as a write-in candidate. Unfortunately, we couldn't seem to find a campaign website or social media platform for McEwen. She did respond to our survey and agreed that the legal market could be enhanced by fairer competition, small business ownership and craft licensing. McEwen also agreed to adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions while acknowledging the medicinal value of cannabis. However, she disagreed that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. McEwen offered support for automatic expungements and enhancing expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses but she remained neutral on the defeloning of those types of offenses. Lastly, McEwen was neutral relative to DCS penalizing anyone who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the direction of a medical professional but did agree that the presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.

McEwen offered the following comments in addition to her survey responses: "When a Peoples Initiative goes into affect there are always unknown/hidden correlating costs that occur. Therefore it is necessary to offset costs by regulating fees. That is just one of the downfalls of Initiatives and Referendums. Having worked in the Criminal Justice Field I would have to have specific examples of non-violent offenses. Pregnant users vs. DCS is a complex issue (child's health vs users health vs DCS criteria)."

## State House Legislative District 22

### **(D) Leezah Sun: A**

[Sun](#) has a background in pharmaceutical consulting and sales and has served as a community organizer. She unsuccessfully ran for House in LD19 in 2020. Sun responded to our survey and was in strong agreement relative to the legal market enhancing fairer competition and promoting small business ownership. She was fully supportive of the idea that cannabis has medicinal value, adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and decreasing medical marijuana card costs. Furthermore, Sun offered strong support for automatic expungements, increasing the number of non-violent cannabis offenses that can be expunged and defelonizing those offenses. Lastly, Sun strongly agreed that DCS should not penalize individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and that the presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

### **(D) Lupe Contreras: B**

[Contreras](#) first won a House seat in LD19 in 2012. He moved over to the Senate in LD19 in 2014 and has held that seat until today. He is back this year with a run at a House seat in LD22. In 2020, Contreras responded to our survey in full support of all seven of our statements. However, he did not respond to our survey this year despite repeated attempts at contact. Contreras has agreed to meet with us during our last two lobby weeks but he would constantly reschedule our meetings through the week until we were simply unable to meet with him. We'd certainly like to ascertain his thoughts relative to our survey statements this year so that we could maintain his A rating from 2020. While we are appreciative of Contreras's yes vote on HB2050 this year, we are not particularly fond of his inability to meet with us over the last two years and his unwillingness to respond to our survey. Because of that, we'll drop Contreras a letter grade for 2022.

## State House Legislative District 23

### **(D) Mariana Sandoval: A**

[Sandoval](#) has worked as a paralegal and has served on the governing board for the Agua Fria Union High School District. She responded to our survey in full support of fairer competition and small business ownership in the legal market. Sandoval was also in strong agreement that cannabis has medicinal value and fully supports adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions as well as reducing medical marijuana card costs. Additionally, she is supportive of automatic expungements, expanding the law to include more expungeable non-violent cannabis offenses and defelonizing those offenses. Lastly, Sandoval is strongly opposed to DCS penalizing individuals who consumed medical marijuana at the recommendation of a medical professional while pregnant and supports the idea that the presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.

### **(D) Jesus Lugo, Jr.: C**

[Lugo](#) is a first-time candidate whose experience includes healthcare, mental health, substance abuse, immigration, law and government. Lugo responded to our survey and strongly agreed that the legal market should have fairer competition, but he was neutral relative to opening the market up to small business owners and craft licenses. His support for the medical program, meanwhile, is mixed. While he fully recognized the medicinal value of cannabis and supported the reduction of card costs, he is neutral on adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions. Regarding our criminal laws, Lugo supports automatic expungements and strongly agreed with expanding expungement laws and defelonizing more non-violent offenses. Lastly, Lugo strongly believes that THC metabolites should be used as the sole indicator of impairment and that DCS should penalize individuals for their consumption of marijuana while pregnant even if they are consuming at their doctor's orders.

### **(R) Michele Pena: I**

[Pena](#) is running as a write-in candidate for a House seat in LD23 this year. While Pena did provide a campaign website and email in the Secretary of State listings, the link to the website was broken and the email bounced back. Therefore, we had no way of contacting Pena regarding our survey. Sadly, our research was unsuccessful in finding anything relative to Pena and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate her at this time.

## State House Legislative District 24

### **(D) Analise Ortiz: A**

[Ortiz](#) is a former journalist and civil rights activist who served as Communications Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona during the campaign for Proposition 207. This first-time candidate responded to our survey in full support of enhancing the legal market through fairer competition and small business ownership. Additionally, Ortiz recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis and strongly supports adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions while also reducing the cost of medical marijuana cards. She is a strong proponent of automatic expungements, increasing the number of expungeable non-violent cannabis offenses, and defelonizing those offenses. Lastly, Ortiz was resolute in her belief that individuals should not be penalized by DCS for consuming medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and that THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment. She unwaveringly supports our political agenda, and we look forward to working with this candidate who is a lock for the Arizona House of Representatives.

### **(D) Lydia Hernandez: I**

[Hernandez](#) has served on the Cartwright School District Governing Board since 2003. She won a House seat in LD29 in 2012 but then lost that seat in the 2014 election. Hernandez then ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD29 in 2016. She ran unsuccessfully as well in a special general election in 2019 for District 5 with the Phoenix City Council. Hernandez returns this year for a run at a House seat in LD24. Despite myriad attempts at contact, Hernandez did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research found nothing of significance on Hernandez and cannabis-related issues despite the length of her political career. Therefore, we simply cannot rate her at this time.

## State House Legislative District 25

### **(R) Tim Dunn: D-**

[Dunn](#) is a businessman who was first elected to a House seat in LD13 in 2018 and won the same seat in 2020. He returns this year with a run for a House seat in LD25. He responded to our survey in support of increasing fairer competition in the legal market but was neutral on small business ownership and craft licenses. While he agreed that there are medical aspects to cannabis, he was neutral on adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and was actually ***against decreasing the costs of medical marijuana cards***. Furthermore, Dunn opposes automatic expungements, and while he supports allowing the expungement of more non-violent cannabis offenses, he is not in favor of defelonizing those offenses. Lastly, he agrees that DCS should penalize individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the direction of a medical professional, but he remained neutral relative to THC metabolites being the sole indicator of impairment.

Dunn did not provide additional comments this year in our survey but provided these remarks to us in 2020: “I do not believe we should legalize marijuana in az further than the medical that is current. This will create a problem in the work place with enforcement. Medical marijuana’s rules of obtaining prescriptions need to be tightened up.”

Unfortunately, Dunn flipped his yes vote to a no vote upon reconsideration in the House regarding HB2050 so we’ll add a minus to his grade for that action.

### **(R) Michael Carbone: I**

[Carbone](#) is a small business owner and first-time legislative candidate. Carbone did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts at contact via email. Sadly, we couldn’t find anything relative to Carbone and cannabis-related issues in our research so we are unable to rate him at this time.



## State House Legislative District 26

### **(D) Flavio Bravo: A**

[Bravo](#) has experience as an educator, Congressional staffer and in the nonprofit sector. This first-time legislative candidate responded to our survey and offered his support for ameliorating the legal market through fairer competition, small business ownership and craft licensing. While recognizing the inherent medicinal value of cannabis, Bravo was in support of adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing the cost of medical marijuana cards. Furthermore, Bravo was steadfast in his support of automatic expungements as well as the expansion of expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and defelonizing those types of offenses. Lastly, Bravo was adamant that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional, and he expressed a belief that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.

### **(D) Cesar Aguilar: A-**

[Aguilar](#) is the Executive Director of Arizona Students Association and serves on the Governing Board of Balsz Elementary School District. This first-time legislative candidate responded to our survey in strong agreement that fairer competition as well as craft licenses and small business ownership would ameliorate our existing legal market. Aguilar fully recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis and strongly supports the reduction of medical marijuana card costs but remained neutral on adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions. Furthermore, Aguilar was fully supportive of automatic expungements, adding more non-violent cannabis offenses to expungement law and defelonizing those aforementioned offenses. Lastly, he agreed that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the recommendation of a medical professional but he disagreed that the presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

In addition to his survey responses, Aguilar offered the following comments: “I am not too sure about the Autism Spectrum Disorder, I would need more information. I was able to find some information on both sides of the argument but would like to know more actual stories and what they think. In terms of convicting drivers under the influence if the only evidence of impairment is THC metabolites in their system. I would also need more information on this. Is the problem with this that the metabolites stay in your system for a while and could mean that you are not actually impaired? Because I do believe individuals should be charged with a DUI if the driver is impaired but I have heard of individuals getting charged even though they were not high but had smoked that morning or the day before. If this is the case I would be open to other ways of testing and investing money on research to find alternative more accurate ways. I am a strong believer



that Medical Marijuana and visits to the doctors that entail prescription for medical marijuana should be covered under Medicaid and Medicare. Both are federally funded but I would be a lawmaker who is vocal that we need those programs to expand to cover medical marijuana.” We can certainly get Aguilar up to speed on Autism Spectrum Disorder and THC metabolites and appreciate his honesty relative to the issues.”

Aguilar’s comments reveal a curious mind who would benefit from more discussions with experts. However, his heart seems to be in the right place. We look forward to working with this uncontested candidate for the Arizona House of Representatives.



## State House Legislative District 27

### **(R) Kevin Payne: B+**

[Payne](#) first won a House seat in LD21 in 2016 and has held that seat until today. He is seeking a House seat in LD27 in this election cycle. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Payne did not respond to our survey.

For perspective, here's what we had to say about Payne in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "Payne has been a strong advocate in the House and has met regularly with Arizona NORML. In fact, here's what we had to say about him in 2018: 'The real deal, Payne was the driving force in the House behind testing bill HR1820 and plans an aggressive reform agenda for the 2019 legislative session.' We were right. Payne was the prime sponsor of one cannabis reform bill and co-sponsored three more in 2019. This year, Payne was the prime sponsor of HB2784 which sought to establish a medical marijuana research committee to oversee and provide grants for marijuana research studies on the safety and efficacy of using marijuana for medical purposes."

Furthermore, Payne sponsored HB2298 in 2021 which was a significant research bill that we fully supported and helped to get passed.

We truly appreciate Payne's previous efforts in the legislature., but he has not responded to us all year and did not respond to repeated requests to meet with us during our lobby week. Without an idea of where he stands now with respect to our survey, we are forced to drop Payne a bit this year in his rating, but we are grateful for his yes votes on HB2050 this session.

### **(R) Ben Toma: B+**

[Toma](#) has worked as a real estate broker and served on the Peoria City Council. He won a House seat in LD22 in 2018 and has maintained that seat until today. He returns this year with a run at a House seat in LD27. Toma did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts. Here's what we had to say about Toma in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "Toma has done some good work in the legislature during his tenure with respect to cannabis. He sponsored HB2362 (an expungement bill) in 2019. He was co-sponsor of HB2554 (which sought to redefine cannabis by statute in response to the Jones Case) and HB2404 (which decriminalized up to 2 ½ ounces of marijuana). Toma also sponsored a bill (HB2359) in 2020 that sought to prevent applicants from being denied licenses due to drug or cannabis charges. Oddly, Toma was also co-sponsor of Representative Bower's horrendous bill, HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% THC cap on the medical marijuana program). Despite the latter misgiving, we'll give Toma the benefit of the doubt."



Sadly, Toma has not met with us in our last two lobby weeks and has not led on any cannabis-related bill in the last two years. However, we'll honor his history and the fact that he was a yes vote on HB2050 by maintaining his rating from 2020 and adding a plus.

**(D) Don Kissinger: I**

Kissinger is a retired engineer who is running as a write-in candidate for a House seat in LD27. He did not provide a campaign website, email or phone number in the Secretary of State listings so we were unable to contact him. Unfortunately, our research did not uncover anything relative to this first-time legislative candidate and cannabis-related issues so we simply cannot rate Kissinger at this time.

## State House Legislative District 28

### **(D) Stephanie Holbrook: A**

[Holbrook](#) is running for the first time this year and is a wife, business owner, endurance athlete and veteran. Holbrook was quick to respond to our survey and she expressed support for the promotion of fairer competition and small business ownership in the legal market. She strongly believes in the medicinal use of cannabis and adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions as well as reducing the costs of medical cards. Additionally, Holbrook offered support for automatic expungements, the expansion of expungeable non-violent cannabis offenses and the defelonization of those offenses. Lastly, Holbrook doesn't want to see DCS penalize those individuals who were pregnant and consumed medical marijuana at the advice of a medical professional nor does she support using the presence of THC metabolites as the sole indication of impairment. Holbrook's affirms that her support extends beyond just cannabis by stating: "In addition to marijuana, I believe other types of plant medicines should be available to the public."

### **(R) David Livingston: C**

[Livingston](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD22 in 2012 and maintained the seat until 2018 when he was elected to the Senate seat in LD22. He has maintained that Senate seat until today. Livingston returns this year seeking a House seat in LD28. Despite repeated contacts, Livingston did not respond to our survey. Here's what we had to say about him in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "In 2016, Livingston was opposed to the initiative to legalize adult-use in Arizona as stated in an Arizona Trucking Association survey. However, according to ivoterguide, Livingston is now neutral relative to his support of the legalization of marijuana. There's certainly some growth there from opposition to neutrality. Livingston was helpful with a testing bill in 2018 as well."

Livingston has not met with us in the last two years of his tenure in the Senate. He's not particularly hostile to cannabis but we'd like to see him more engaged on the issue. We are grateful for Livingston's yes vote on HB2050 but we'll maintain his grade from 2020 for this year.

### **(R) Beverly Pingerelli: D-**

[Pingerelli](#) serves on the Peoria Unified School District Governing Board having first been elected to the board in 2014. She won a House seat in LD21 in 2020 and returns this year seeking a House seat in LD28. Despite repeated attempts at contact, Pingerelli did not respond to our survey. However, here's what we had to say about her in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "In the ivoterguide, Pingerelli strongly disagreed with a statement asking if she supported the



legalization of recreational marijuana. Without further information on Pingerelli and her unwillingness to respond to our survey for clarity on her positions, we'll grade Pingerelli on her strong opposition to legalization."

Pingerelli has not met with us in the last two years despite requests to meet for our lobby week. Since we only have limited information on Pingerelli and do not have survey responses this year to inform our rating, we'll keep Pingerelli's grade from 2020 but add a minus to reflect her no votes on HB2050.

## State House Legislative District 29

### **(D) Scott Eric Podeyn: B-**

[Podeyn](#) is retired from the US Air Force and is a first-time candidate. He responded to our survey in agreement that there should be fairer competition in the legal market and strongly agreed to the addition of craft licenses and small business ownership. Podeyn wholly recognized that there are medical applications relative to cannabis and was in full support of adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions as well as reducing medical marijuana card costs. While he was neutral on making expungements automatic, Podeyn strongly agreed to expanding expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and he agreed that those offenses should be defeloned. Lastly, Podeyn remained neutral on the statements regarding DCS and THC metabolites.

Besides responding to our survey, Podeyn submitted the following statement to address his neutrality on certain issues: “On the question I replied neutral are only because I have question on the current law and also peer reviewed studies to determine the science. On pregnancy's and cannabis I'll need more information. In regards to driving under the influence of THC I would need more information.” (Typos in original.) We are confident that we can provide more information to Podeyn if he is elected relative to these concerns.

### **(R) Steve Montenegro: D**

[Montenegro](#) was first elected to the House in 2008 in LD12 and was reelected to that seat in 2010. He then successfully ran for a House seat in LD13 in 2012 and was then reelected to that seat in 2014. Montenegro was then elected in 2016 to the Senate seat in LD13 but resigned that seat to run unsuccessfully for a United States House seat in CD8 in 2018. Montenegro returned in 2020 for an unsuccessful run at a House seat in LD13. He is running for a House seat in LD29 this election cycle. Montenegro did not respond to calls about our survey and his campaign did not list an email in his Secretary of State filing.

In 2016, Montenegro co-signed a letter in vociferous opposition to legalization via Prop 205 entitled “Prop 205 is a dangerous, costly mistake we can’t afford to make.” That letter appeared in EastValley.com on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Given the fact that we cannot ascertain Montenegro’s thoughts on cannabis today, we’ll use the prohibitionist missive that he signed as the basis for Montenegro’s grade.

**(R) Austin Smith: I**

[Smith](#) is a first-time legislative candidate who has experience as an activist. Despite myriad attempts to contact him, Smith did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research did not uncover anything relative to Smith and cannabis-related issues so we are simply unable to rate him at this time.



### State House Legislative District 30

**(R) Leo Biasiucci: D-**

Biasiucci first ran for a House seat in LD05 as a Green Party candidate in 2016. He returned as a Republican in 2018 and won a House seat in LD05. Biasiucci has maintained that seat until today. He is seeking a House seat in LD30 this year. Despite myriad contacts, Biasiucci did not respond to our survey.

Without survey responses, we'll refer to our 2020 General Election Guide: "In 2018, Arizona NORML addressed Biasiucci's conversion from Green party to the Republican Party and how it affected his views on cannabis: 'A former Green Party candidate, Biasiucci had claimed to support cannabis reform measures in 2016. However, his dramatic party shift and current billing as a "Trump Conservative" bring all his positions into question. For example, as of 2018, Biasiucci now professes to CAP that he opposes legalization.' Biasiucci told the Today's News-Herald Havasu News.com on October 16, 2019 that he opposes Prop 207. He also demonstrated his lack of support for the medical marijuana program and patients by co-sponsoring the awful HCR2045 which sought a 2% cap on THC in the medical marijuana program earlier this year."

"Here's what Biasiucci had to tell the Today's News-Herald Havasu News.com on July 20, 2018 relative to legalization: 'As far as I know, a test does not exist that can determine at what point someone consumed marijuana. This concerns me because let's say someone is involved in a workplace accident or traffic accident. Usually, a drug/alcohol test is administered to determine if the individual was impaired. The problem is, current test[ing] can't show if the individual consumed the marijuana 3 hours ago or 23 days ago. So can you imagine the court cases and tax dollars wasted on dealing with this gray area? So until that accurate tests exists that will help law enforcement, I can't support any measure related to the legalization of marijuana.'"

Hailing from Mohave County, where a majority of voters and a majority of Republican voters supported adult-use legalization, these views leave us scratching our heads.

**(R) John Gillette: D**

[Gillette](#) is a United States Army veteran and first-time legislative candidate. He ran unsuccessfully for Mohave County Sheriff in 2016. Even though we had a rather lengthy and good conversation with Gillette, he did not respond to our survey. On July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, The Mohave County Daily News featured an article on the Mohave County Sheriff Republican candidate forum where candidates were asked if they favored legalizing marijuana for recreational use. Here's what the

article stated with respect to that question: “Gillette: Opposed. Sees it as a gateway drug.” Ouch...the ol’ gateway drug argument. Without survey responses, we’ll have to grade Gillette accordingly.



## Arizona State Senate

*The Arizona Senate includes 30 senators from 30 districts across the state. Each district sends one senator to the State Senate.*

### **State Senate Legislative District 1**

#### **(D) Mike Fogel: A**

[Fogel](#) is retired educator who currently serves on the Chino Valley School Board. This first-time legislative candidate responded to our survey offering strong support for the legal market to be enhanced through fairer competition, small business ownership and craft licensing. Fogel recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis and strongly agreed that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions and that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. Furthermore, Fogel was in full support of automatic expungements and ameliorating current law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses as well as defelonizing those types of offenses. Lastly, Fogel was adamant that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

#### **(R) Ken Bennett: D**

[Bennett](#) started his political career in 1985 by serving on the Prescott City Council until 1992. He was then appointed to the Arizona State Board of Education in 1992 and served there until 1998. Bennett then served in the House in LD01 in 1998 and 1999. He was then elected and served four terms in the Senate from 1999 to 2007 when he was termed out of the seat. Bennett was then appointed by Jan Brewer to the Secretary of State position in 2009 and then won a full term in 2010. In 2014, Bennett ran unsuccessfully for Governor and he ran unsuccessfully for a United States House seat in CD1 in 2016. He returned in 2018 for another unsuccessful run for Governor. Finally, Bennett returns this year with a run at the Senate seat in LD01.

One would think that there would be a wealth of information regarding cannabis and Bennett given his long history in politics. However, we were shocked at how little information we could find on him. However, Arizona NORML did grade him as a gubernatorial candidate in 2018. It was quick and simple: "A former Arizona Secretary of State, Bennett has spoken against cannabis repeatedly." Without further information on Bennett, we'll keep his grade from 2018.

## State Senate Legislative District 2

### **(D) Jeanne Casteen: A**

[Casteen](#) is an educator who served on the Governing Board of the Creighton School District from 2013 to 2020. She ran unsuccessfully for Maricopa County School Superintendent in 2020. Casteen responded to our survey in strong agreement that the legal market should be enhanced by fairer competition and the addition of craft licenses and small business ownership. She was fully supportive of the idea that cannabis has medicinal value, adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing medical marijuana card costs. Furthermore, Casteen offered her full support for automatic expungements, expanding expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and defelonizing those aforementioned offenses. Finally, Casteen offered strong support for not using THC metabolites as the sole indicator of impairment and was fully opposed to DCS penalizing individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the direction of a medical professional.

Casteen added this additional comment to our survey: “I also believe that non-violent drug offenders should be able to obtain a teaching certificate to legally teach in the state of Arizona.”

### **(R) Steve Kaiser: F**

[Kaiser](#) is a small business owner and veteran who first ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD06 in 2010. He returned in 2020 to win a House seat in LD15. He is now running for the Senate seat in LD02 this election cycle. Despite repeated contacts, Kaiser did not respond to our survey. Since our research yielded nothing relative to Kaiser and cannabis-related issues, we’ll revisit what we had to say about him in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: “One of our volunteers reports back relative to a phone call with Kaiser: “Won’t be voting for prop 207, and won’t be filling out survey, then hung up on me.” Had Kaiser taken the time to talk with us further, we might have been able to give him a better grade based on clarifying his position. Since our research yielded nothing on Kaiser, we’ll go with his statements to our volunteer and curve down due to his incivility.”

Given the fact that Kaiser has not met with us during his tenure in the legislature and that he voted no twice on HB2050, we’ll maintain his 2020 rating.

### State Senate Legislative District 3

**(R) John Kavanagh: D-**

[Kavanagh](#) previously served in the House in LD23 from 2007 to 2015. He was then elected to the Senate in LD23 in 2014 through 2016. He then won the House seat in LD23 in 2018 and has maintained that seat until today. This year, he seeks the Senate seat in LD03. Not unexpectedly, Kavanagh did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts.

We'll let our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide summarize Kavanagh: "When contacted by our volunteer, here's what Kavanagh said: "You don't want to hear what I have to say!" Yeah...Kavanagh's probably right, we really don't want to hear what he has to say. In fact, here's what Arizona NORML had to say about Kavanagh in our 2018 General Election Candidate Guide: "Kavanagh is another GOP legislator aiming to cycle between the House and Senate until well into next century. "His antics would be easy to tolerate if this guy wasn't also AZ's most colorful and most dogged prohibitionist."" Kavanagh's cruelty knows no bounds as he attempted to create a bill in 2013 to rescind the entire medical marijuana program in Arizona. In 2018, he voted no on SB1420 (an early testing bill) because the bill lowered patient card costs. In 2020, Kavanagh has taken a public stance against Prop 207. We've seen enough and don't appreciate his treatment of our volunteer."

Kavanagh is an avowed prohibitionist but he did vote yes twice on HB2050. We'll show Kavanagh some love and round his perpetual F to a D- for this election cycle.

**(D) Thomas Dugger: I**

[Dugger](#) is retired but he has worked as a CIO of a consulting firm and in information security and network engineering. This first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey despite myriad contacts. Sadly, we were unable to uncover anything relative to Dugger and cannabis-related issues so we cannot grade him at this time.

## State Senate Legislative District 4

### **(D) Christine Marsh: B+**

[Marsh](#) is a former teacher who first ran unsuccessfully for the Senate in LD28 in 2018. She returned in 2020 to win that same Senate seat. Marsh is now seeking the Senate seat in LD04 in this election cycle. Marsh responded to our survey offering strong support for fairer competition in the legal market and agreed to enhancing that market through small business ownership and craft licensing. Marsh fully recognized the medicinal value of cannabis and agreed that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. Furthermore, Marsh strongly agreed that expungements should be automatic and that more non-violent cannabis offenses should be added to existing expungement law while offering support for the defeloning of those types of offenses. Lastly, Marsh did not respond to our statements regarding Autism Spectrum Disorder, DCS and THC metabolites.

Marsh has impressed us during her last two years in the legislature. She has met with us during both our lobby weeks and was more than willing to meet with us regarding HB2050. We also truly appreciated Marsh's yes vote on HB2050 which clearly demonstrated her commitment to patients and veterans.

### **(R) Nancy Barto: D-**

[Barto](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD07 in 2008. In 2010, Barto was elected to the Senate in LD07. She moved over to the Senate in LD15 in 2012 and maintained that seat until being elected to a House seat in LD15 in 2018. She then won the Senate seat in LD15 in 2020 and has maintained that seat until today. She is back this year with a run at the Senate seat in LD04. Despite myriad attempts to contact her, Barto did not respond to our survey.

Here's what we had to say about Barto in our 2020 General Election Guide: "In the ivoterguide, Barto strongly disagreed with the legalization of recreational marijuana. Barto has also been quoted as saying: "If we're serious about preventing youth suicide and mental illness, we should be warning them about the cannabis link. It's real. It's deadly."

"If that's not enough to trouble you, here's what Arizona NORML had to say about Barto in 2018: 'Continuing to be a font of misinformation, Barto needs to be reeducated due to beliefs rooted in propaganda. Blocked key reform votes and promoted misinformation during opioid discussions. Consider this reply to AZ Central: "No. Arizona's medical marijuana law has already proliferated marijuana use by far more people than most voters intended. Most who voted for the measure envisioned helping vulnerable cancer patients but its lax rules far more often accommodate cardholders between 18-35 with 'chronic pain.' It also sent the message to teens

that marijuana is harmless. It's not and its potency is exponentially higher than in the 70's (3% vs 15-80% in today's depending if it is smoked, eaten or vaped). Legalized recreational marijuana has increased addiction, compromises a person's judgment and increases serious auto injuries and death. With all of our concerns about students' mental health and academic achievement, we should listen when studies link marijuana use to lower academic achievement and motivation, increased risk of psychotic symptoms and schizophrenia-like psychoses and increased testicular cancer. The dangers and unintended consequences of legalizing pot far outweigh any public benefit.""

And just for kicks, here's Barto's insufferable missive regarding Prop 207: "As a legislator, advocating for Arizona's families is a top priority. That's why I am voting NO on the initiative to legalize recreational marijuana – and I urge you to do the same. While there are many problems with this initiative that should concern us, there are two that trouble me the most. First and foremost, this initiative would make marijuana more accessible to your kids and empower Big Marijuana to target them. The data is clear. More kids use marijuana in states that legalize it for recreational use. The initiative will keep most localities from banning recreational pot shops, permit rampant social media advertising, and authorize the industry to sell marijuana gummies, candies, soda, cookies, and vape pens. A multitude of studies show the damage adolescent use of marijuana does to our children's developing brains. Until they turn 25, the prefrontal cortex (responsible for decision making, judgment and impulsivity) is still developing. Sadly, permanent IQ loss and long-term dependence can result when kids begin using young and continue that use. As a mother and grandmother, I don't want to see our children's potential robbed. We must protect them. Second, the initiative will put your family at risk on the road. Legalization of recreational marijuana increases the number of impaired drivers on the road, putting us all in danger and at times ending in tragedy. In Colorado – which legalized recreational marijuana in 2012 – one-third of marijuana users admit they drive stoned every day. Arizona families can't afford to take that same risk. For the sake of our children, our future, and our families, I urge you to vote NO. Nancy Barto, Representative, Phoenix"

While we certainly don't like Barto's rhetoric regarding cannabis, we will recognize that she did vote yes on HB2050 this year to move the bill out of the Senate and over to the House. In a demonstration of our gratitude, we'll bump her consistent F up to a D- this year.



## State Senate Legislative District 5

### **(D) Lela Alston: B+**

[Alston](#) has served many years in the Arizona legislature. She served in the Arizona Senate from 1976 to 1995. She later served in the House in LD24 from 2011 to 2019. She was then elected to the Senate in LD24 in 2018 and has maintained that seat until today. Alston has also served on the Phoenix Union High School District Governing Board since 2008. Alston is seeking the Senate seat in LD05 this year.

Here's what we had to say about the venerable Alston in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "Alston responded to our survey and did not support the legalization of adult-use in Arizona. She was neutral relative to an understanding of the science behind medical marijuana and supporting the elimination of federal prohibition. Alston was supportive of not having children removed from a parent due to cannabis use. She was strongly supportive of the medical marijuana program, working to reduce drastic penalties for non-violent marijuana offenses and expungement of records on marijuana possession or use. Alston provided us with this quote as well: "I do support decriminalizing marijuana use and legalizing medical marijuana at the federal level." Alston has also co-sponsored a couple of cannabis reform bills including SB1372 which sought to decriminalize 5 grams of marijuana or less and SB1479 which sought to add autism spectrum disorder to the list of qualifying conditions to the AMMA."

Alston has been willing to meet with us over the last two legislative sessions. She also met with us regarding HB2050 recently and supported that bill with a yes vote to move it out of the Senate.

### **(R) Jeff Silvey: I**

[Silvey](#) is running as a write-in candidate for a House seat in LD05. This first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey and our research did not reveal anything relative to Silvey and cannabis-related issues. Therefore, we are unable to rate him at this time.





## State Senate Legislative District 6

### **(D) Theresa Hatathlie: B**

Hatathlie assumed office in the Senate in LD07 in January of 2022. She is running for the Senate seat in LD06 this year. Despite repeated contacts, Hatathlie did not respond to our survey. She met with us during our lobby week, and she recently took an hour of her time to talk with us regarding HB2050. In that meeting, Hatathlie provided us with her perspective on marijuana and how her culture influences her thinking. We truly appreciate the insight that Hatathlie provided us and were grateful for her yes vote on HB2050.

### **(R) Rich King: I**

Running as a write-in candidate, Rich King will challenge Theresa Hatathlie. He has decades of experience in the healthcare industry. Sadly, King rebuffed our numerous emails and phone-calls that sought answers to our survey. Without a track-record in politics or a completed survey, we are unable to grade King at this time.

## State Senate Legislative District 7

### **(D) Kyle Nitschke: A**

[Nitschke](#) is a first-time candidate who got his start in organizing and working for a Congressional campaign. He has the unique distinction of being the first candidate to respond to our survey. Based on those responses, it is clear that Nitschke supports the promotion of fairer competition and small business ownership relative to the legal market. He believes in the medicinal use of cannabis, favors adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and supports reducing the costs of medical marijuana cards. Furthermore, Nitschke voiced his support for automatic expungements, the expansion of expungeable non-violent cannabis offenses and the defeloning of those offenses. Lastly, Nitschke was fully supportive of DCS not penalizing people who were pregnant and consumed medical marijuana at the advice of a medical professional and believes that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole measurement of impairment.

### **(R) Wendy Rogers: F**

[Rogers](#) is a retired veteran and business owner who first ran unsuccessfully in 2010 for a Senate seat in LD17. She returned in 2012 and 2014 to unsuccessfully run for US House in District 9. She then unsuccessfully ran for US House in District 1 in 2016 and 2018. Rogers finally won the Senate seat in LD06 in 2020. She returns this year with a run for the Senate seat in LD07. Rogers did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact her.

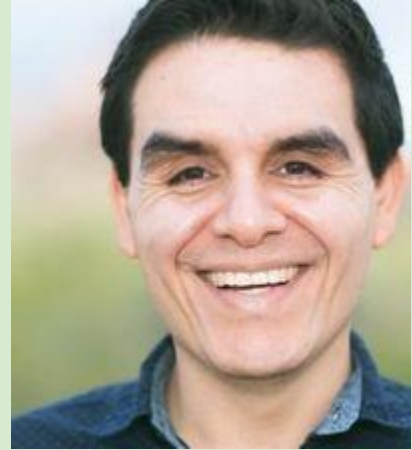
Here's what we had to say about Rogers in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: “Rogers responded to a question in VoteSmart asking if she supported the legalization of recreational marijuana. Rogers responded no and stated that it is a state issue. Ummm...MORE Act? Rogers also strongly disagreed to a statement in the ivoterguide asking is she supported the legalization of recreational marijuana. Lastly, in 2010, Rogers indicated in a Center for Arizona Policy candidate questionnaire that she opposed “[l]egalizing the use of marijuana for medical purposes.” Opposition to the legalization of both adult-use and medical marijuana just doesn’t sit well with us.”

Rogers has refused to meet with us over the last two years of her tenure in the legislature. While we appreciate the fact that she did vote yes on HB2050 recently, we just don’t think that is enough to raise her grade from 2020.

## State Senate Legislative District 8

### **(D) Juan Mendez: A+**

[Mendez](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD26 in 2012 and was reelected to that seat in 2014. Mendez then switched to the Senate in LD26 in the 2016 election and has maintained that Senate seat until today. He is seeking the Senate seat in LD08 this election cycle. Mendez responded to our survey and strongly agreed that the legal market would benefit from fairer competition, small business ownership and craft licensing. He recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis while being strongly in favor of adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing the cost of medical marijuana cards. Mendez was steadfast in his support of automatic expungements as well as ameliorating expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and defelonizing those types of offenses. Lastly, Mendez was adamant that DCS should not penalize any individual who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and strongly agreed that the presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.



Mendez summed up his thoughts with following the comment: “I want to end the war on drugs.”

We are grateful to Mendez for his conversations surrounding HB2050 and his commitment to come to the capitol and vote yes on the bill despite the risk to his newborn child.

### **(R) Roxana Holzapfel: I**

[Holzapfel](#) has owned small businesses and worked in many professional fields. This first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts. Unfortunately, we were unable to uncover any information on Holzapfel and cannabis-related issues so we simply cannot rate her at this time.

## State Senate Legislative District 9

### **(R) Robert Scantlebury: C**

[Scantlebury](#) is a retired Mesa Police officer who is also a small business owner. He ran unsuccessfully for the Mesa City Council District 4 in 2018 and he is seeking the Senate seat in LD09 this election cycle. Despite repeated contacts, Scantlebury did not respond to our survey. It is interesting to note that Scantlebury responded to a Facebook post by Mesa City Councilmember Jeremy Whittaker on November 19, 2020 about the City of Mesa prohibiting such things as adult-use sales, marijuana testing facilities and adult-use delivery. Scantlebury offered the following comment: “They always seem to go against whatever the vote is. I hope someone organizes a smoke-in at the opening of the Downtown Mesa ASU campus.” We’ll go out on a limb and make a rather large assumption that Scantlebury seems to honor the will of the voters relative to Prop 207 and grade him accordingly.

### **(D) Eva Burch: I**

Burch started her career in emergency nursing in 2012. This first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey. Sadly, our research yielded no information with respect to Burch and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate her at this time.



## State Senate Legislative District 10

### **(R) David Farnsworth: F**

[Farnsworth](#) served in the Arizona Senate in LD16 from September 2013 through January of 2021. Despite repeated contacts, Farnsworth did not respond to our survey. In 2016, Farnsworth co-signed a letter in vociferous opposition to legalization via Prop 205 entitled “Prop 205 is a dangerous, costly mistake we can’t afford to make.” That letter appeared in EastValley.com on October 8th, 2016.

In a 2018 summary of bills, here’s what Arizona NORML had to say about Farnsworth’s legislative wisdom: “In the Senate, anti-cannabis Sen. David Farnsworth (R-LD16) has three bills targeting the industry. The bill garnering the most attention is SB1032, which prohibits cannabis outdoor advertising along highways. Farnsworth’s two other bills were initially intended to be one bill. SB1060 targets the state’s emerging cannabis delivery industry and makes publishing erroneous information about the address or products of a dispensary a class six felony. After meeting with Arizona NORML, Senator Farnsworth assures us that this bill is expected to face substantial revisions. Current wording targets companies like Leafly or AZMarijuana.com instead of unscrupulous delivery companies themselves. Farnsworth’s SB1061 was originally a second part of the SB1061, which addressed funding for the crackdown on delivery drivers. Farnsworth is calling for five million dollars from the state’s medical marijuana fund to pay for the crackdown.”

### **(I) Nick Fierro: I**

[Fierro](#) is running an insurgent write-in campaign in this solidly Republican district. His campaign webpage states that he is a doctor running a “grassroots” campaign. However, despite his focus on the grassroots, Fierro could not be bothered to respond to our inquiries regarding Arizona NORML’s candidate survey. Without any track-record in politics or a completed survey, we are unable to grade Fierro at this time.

## State Senate Legislative District 11

### **(D) Catherine Miranda: A-**

[Miranda](#) has an extensive political background having won a House seat in LD16 in 2010 and 2012. She then won the Senate seat in LD27 in 2014 and 2016. She unsuccessfully ran for US Representative in CD7 in 2018 and for a House seat in LD27 in 2020. She is back this year for a run at the Senate seat in LD11. Miranda responded to our survey in full support of promoting fairer competition in the legal market but was vehemently opposed to adding craft licenses and small business ownership. Miranda recognizes the value of medical cannabis and is fully supportive of adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing medical marijuana card costs. She was in strong agreement that expungements should be automatic and that more non-violent cannabis offenses should be made expungeable as well as defelonizing those offenses. Lastly, Miranda was adamant that DCS should not penalize those people who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the direction of a medical professional and that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.

While we were a bit puzzled as to why Miranda vociferously opposed the addition of small business ownership and craft licensing to the legal market, we'll let her try to explain her reasoning: "I disagree with the last question- It helps the black market flourish by lowering the barrier of entry into a very well controlled state."

### **(R) Maryn Brannies: I**

[Brannies](#) is a first-time legislative candidate who declined to do our survey. Unfortunately, our research did not uncover anything relative to Brannies and cannabis-related issues so we simply cannot rate her at this time.

## State Senate Legislative District 12

### **(D) Mitzi Epstein: C+**

Epstein was first elected to the Kyrene Elementary School District Governing Board in 2004. She then ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD18 in 2014. She returned to win a House seat in LD18 in 2016 and has held that seat until today. She is back this election cycle with a run at the Senate seat in LD12. Since Epstein refused to respond to our survey despite myriad contacts, we'll do a historical dive on her for your reading pleasure.

Here's what we had to say about Epstein in our 2018 General Election Candidate Guide: "While Epstein has spoken in favor of cannabis reform bills off the floor, she is less active than several of her allies in the House. Note her ambiguous centrist answer to AZ Central: 'This decision is best left up to the voters. If marijuana is ever legalized, we need to ensure it is strongly regulated and monitored so it is kept out of the hands of children and Arizonans are safe in their community, at work, and on our roadways.'"

In 2020, we had this to say about Epstein in our General Election Candidate Guide: "In an LD18 General Election Candidate debate sponsored by the AZCCEC, Epstein was asked if she supported Prop 207. She stated that she hasn't made a decision yet but that parts of the initiative make sense. She felt that it would stop us from putting people in prison for relatively small amounts of marijuana possession. Epstein then said that prison doesn't solve perceived problems because of cannabis use. She continued to say that large scale possession would still be a crime. Epstein then offered a couple of things she would like to fix if Prop 207 passes. She feels that the initiative creates an oligopoly but that they did some nice work in opening the market for some new entrepreneurs with support. Furthermore, Epstein does not want to see advertising and she is worried about the initiative reining in advertising. Epstein also stated that if the initiative passes, they will have to do their job to protect children. Lastly, when asked if she has ever smoked or ingested weed, Epstein said no because she doesn't like any kind of smoke. Asked about ingestion, she said no as well. There are some holes in her arguments but at least Epstein is willing to have the conversation. We'll look for more from her if she is reelected."

Unfortunately, we haven't seen more from Epstein in two years since 2020. She has not met with us during our lobby weeks and does not lead on cannabis-related issues. However, she did vote yes twice on HB2050 so we are appreciative of that support.

### **(R) David Richardson: I**

[Richardson](#) is a business owner and first-time legislative candidate. Richardson did not respond to our survey despite repeated emails to his campaign. Sadly, we were unable to uncover



anything in our research for Richardson and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate him at this time.



## State Senate Legislative District 13

### **(D) Cynthia Hans: A**

[Hans](#) is a retired public-school educator who has also served as an election worker. She is a first-time candidate who responded to our survey in complete support of ameliorating the legal market through fairer competition and small business ownership. Hans strongly believes that cannabis has medicinal value and fully supports adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions as well as reducing medical marijuana card costs. Furthermore, she is steadfast in her support of automatic expungements, adding more non-violent cannabis offenses to the list of expungeable offenses and defelonizing those aforementioned offenses. Lastly, Hans was adamant that DCS should not penalize those individuals who consumed medical marijuana at the direction of a medical professional while pregnant and that the presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.

In addition to her survey responses, Hans offered the following statement: “I would support more medical studies. I understand the complexities of the federal laws and the various laws at the state level. But I think there are some not yet understood applications for various medical conditions that need to be examined.”

### **(R) J.D. Mesnard: D-**

[Mesnard](#) first won a House seat in 2010 in LD21. He then won a House seat in LD17 in 2012 and remained in that position until he was elected to the Senate seat in LD17 in 2018. He has maintained that Senate seat until today. He is seeking the Senate seat in LD13 in this election cycle. Despite repeated contacts, Mesnard did not respond to our survey.

In 2016, Mesnard was instrumental in creating four bills that sought to thwart the Voter Protection Act in an effort to prevent any initiative relative to legalization from becoming law.

In 2018, Arizona NORML had this to say about Mesnard: “As speaker of the House, Mesnard torpedoed at least a dozen reform bills during his tenure.”

Mesnard was in open opposition to Prop 205 and one of many legislators who signed on to an opposition letter to Prop 205 that was printed in EastValley.com on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

In the last two years, Mesnard has refused to meet with us during our lobby weeks. Without the ability to meet with him and lacking survey responses this year for clarity, we were going to maintain Mesnard’s F rating from 2020 but his yes vote on HB2050 convinced us to bump his grade up a bit.

## State Senate Legislative District 14

### **(R) Warren Petersen: D-**

One of two favorites to become President of the Senate, Petersen first won a House seat in LD12 in 2012 and then won that seat again in 2014. In 2016, Petersen won the Senate seat in LD12. He returned to the House in LD12 in 2018 and has maintained that seat until today. Petersen is seeking the Senate seat in LD14 this election cycle. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Petersen did not respond to our survey.

Here's what we had to say about Petersen in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "In 2016, Petersen showed his disdain for patients by co-sponsoring HB2404 which sought to prevent SNAP recipients from being eligible for a reduced medical marijuana card fee. In 2018, Petersen told CAP that he opposes legalization. In 2020, Petersen [took] a public stance against Prop 207. Lastly, Petersen voted yes on the reprehensible bill HCR2045 in this year's legislative session. That's enough for us to establish a grade!"

While we knew that Petersen was opposed to Prop 207, we didn't have a copy of his anti-207 missive that he penned in 2020. We'll reproduce it here for your reading displeasure:

"This year, an initiative to legalize recreational marijuana is on your ballot. It is bad news for you, your family and Arizona. First, it would lead to an increase in marijuana use by our kids as the marijuana industry has already shown they will target them. As a father of five and someone who cares about Arizona's future, I know how vital it is that we protect our kids from the harms of marijuana. The data from other states that have passed similar initiatives shows higher rates of kids using marijuana. When kids use marijuana while their brains are still developing, it can result in harm ranging from changes in memory, concentration, and motivation to permanent IQ loss and ongoing dependence. The consequences would be devastating. The initiative would also put our families at risk on the road by increasing the number of impaired drivers. In Colorado, where recreational marijuana was legalized in 2012, traffic deaths 41 involving drivers using marijuana more than doubled. In Washington, another "legal" state, drivers testing positive for THC almost tripled after legalization. I don't want to put my family or yours at that kind of risk. Let's not forget Arizona already offers medical Marijuana as a treatment. Those who really need it, can get it. Proliferating the use of this dangerous substance beyond medicinal use just isn't worth it. Finally, the initiative is written to support crony capitalism. Big Marijuana - the writers and backers of the initiative - wrote the law to give themselves a monopoly for the first 60-days on a limited number of licenses. Should we put our kids and families at risk to pass an initiative that gives Big Marijuana the monopoly on a dangerous new industry? No. Arizona can do better. I encourage you to vote no. Warren Petersen, House Majority Leader, AZ House of Representatives, Gilbert.



While we certainly don't concur with the preceding rhetoric, we are appreciative of Petersen's yes vote on HB2050 this session and we'll curve his grade from 2020 to reflect that vote.



## State Senate Legislative District 15

### **(R) Jake Hoffman: D-**

[Hoffman](#) has served on the Higley School Board and the Queen Creek Town Council. He ran successfully for a House seat in LD12 in 2020 and is back this year with a run for the Senate seat in LD15. Sadly, Hoffman did not respond to our survey despite repeated phone calls and emails. Even with extensive research, we could not find anything relative to Hoffman and marijuana. Hoffman has refused to meet with us during his tenure in the legislature despite outreach to him during our lobby weeks. Without survey responses for clarity on where Hoffman stands on cannabis-related issues, we'll rate him on his absolute unwillingness to even meet with us and the fact that he voted no twice on HB2050.

### **(D) Alan Smith: I**

[Smith](#) is running as a write-in for the Senate seat in LD15. Sadly, Smith did not complete our survey. Nor our research failed to yield anything relative to Smith and cannabis-related issues so we simply cannot rate him.

## State Senate Legislative District 16

### **(D) Taylor Kerby: A**

[Kerby](#) is a teacher who currently serves on the Governing Board of the Casa Grande Union High School District. He responded to our survey with complete support for the legal market to be ameliorated by fairer competition and small business ownership. While recognizing the medicinal value of cannabis, Kerby was in strong agreement to add Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and reducing medical marijuana card costs. He was steadfast in his support for automatic expungements, enhancing expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and defelonizing those offenses. Finally, Kerby was adamant that DCS should not penalize individuals who consume medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and that the presence of THC metabolites shouldn't be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

### **(R) T.J. Shope: B**

[Shope](#) first won a House seat in LD8 in 2012 and served in that position until 2020. He then won the Senate seat in LD08 in 2020. Sadly, Shope did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact him.

Here's what we had to say about Shope in our General Election Candidate Guide in 2020: "Shope has quietly supported cannabis reform and has even shown leadership on a few bills. Shope expressed his opinion about a potential ballot initiative in 2020 to azfamily.com on July 23, 2019: 'Rep. T.J. Shope, the speaker pro tempore, said legalization might be unavoidable given the shift in public attitudes about marijuana. For that reason, he said the Legislature might have no choice but to craft its own legislation to avoid unintended consequences from an industry-backed initiative. Shope said he's waiting to see if the initiative protects business owners and empowers law enforcement to handle situations like people driving under the influence of marijuana. "If those kinds of things aren't respected in an initiative, then we possibly will have to come in there and say, 'Look, this is a reason for us to get involved,'" Shope said.'

"Shope also participated in a Pinal Partnership LD08 Debate on September 8, 2020. In this debate, Shope was asked if he supported Prop 207. Shope responded that he is not opposed to recreational marijuana for people over 21 but that he is opposed to the initiative. He stated that he believes that Prop 207 is poorly written and that propositions cannot be changed once passed. He also expressed concerns that if the proposition passes and the federal government ends prohibition, then the Arizona excise tax would be reduced and we would see diminishing returns. Shope then reemphasized that he is not opposed to legalization...that it is the right time and the right thing to do but that he still opposes Prop 207."



We'd certainly like to see Shope lead more on cannabis issues in the legislature. Unfortunately, he has not met with us in the last two sessions during our lobby week. Without current survey responses to assess Shope, we'll keep his grade where it was in 2020 and offer our appreciation relative to his yes vote on HB2050 this session.

## State Senate Legislative District 17

### **(R) Justine Wadsack: A**

Wadsack is a real estate agent and business owner who first ran unsuccessfully for the Senate seat in LD10 in 2020. She returns this year for a run at the Senate seat in LD17. Wadsack did speak to one of our volunteers but never responded to our survey. We spoke with Wadsack in 2020 and were very impressed with her perspective regarding cannabis. We were then equally impressed with the statements that she submitted to our survey that year. We'll reprint them again this year:

1) "The medical benefits are clear that Marijuana/CBD helps people who are suffering from Epilepsy, PTSD, Anxiety, Diabetes, Pain, Cancer, Eating Disorders and more. It seems the only scientists who disagree are in some way affiliated with Big Pharma, as Marijuana/CBD is replacing many of the prescription drug needs that make bureaucrats a lot of money."

2) "I want to see a change in the Federal laws that currently prohibit a citizen's right to buy, own or carry a gun if they hold a Medical Marijuana Card, as there is no similar restriction on gun rights for those who drink alcohol or take prescription drugs. The 2nd Amendment must apply to people who hold their MMJ card too!!!"

3) "I support the "Medical Marijuana Program in Arizona". There are nearly 300,000 MMJ Cardholders in Arizona. This program should continue, but should also mean that when purchased for medical use, with the MMJ Card, it should be covered by Health Insurance, and/or the price should be reduced with lower taxes than the 16% excise tax applied to recreational purchases. Too many people need it, and can't afford it, so they continue to purchase street Marijuana, which can potentially be laced with life-threatening Opioids such as Fentanyl."

4) "I support the "Legalization of Marijuana in Arizona initiative" as a PERSONAL CHOICE! Those who don't approve, don't have to purchase it. Those who would rather choose Marijuana over beer, should have the right to choose. It will bring Arizona a 16% excise tax (the same as cigarettes and alcohol). I would like to see the tax funding be dispersed between Police & Fire departments, DDD Caregiver Raises & Recruitment, New Mental Health Facilities, & Improvements to City Roads (Tucson needs this badly). In short, this would essentially impose the same rules, laws and consequences on someone who uses alcohol when it comes to advertising, packaging, workplace rules, driving/flying/boating, quality regulations, public restriction, cafe license, etc."

5) “I am against the separation of parents from their children, period, as Parents Rights are paramount! Of course, that is unless the child is being physically or mentally abused or neglected, so this would be a case-by-case issue. There are parents who abuse drugs, and parents who choose Marijuana over alcohol. There are parents who are alcoholics, and parents who like a glass of wine after work. Parents must have a right to due process, and must be presumed innocent until proven guilty of any wrongdoing. Unfortunately, DCS will use this as an excuse to further abuse their power.”

6) “I am for Criminal Justice Reform. The punishment must fit the crime, and an arrest for Marijuana possession must be treated differently than an arrest for Fentanyl or Meth possession, as not all drug offenses should be Felonies. Our prisons are over-crowded, and community service can and should replace many of these tougher judgements. Again, this is a case-by-case issue, but it should be nothing more than a misdemeanor.”

7) “I believe when a citizen serves time in prison, they have "paid their debt to society". In any other instance, a paid debt means just that...it's paid, and done. Those who serve their time, should have the records expunged so they can have an opportunity to enter back into society, vote, and obtain employment. I do NOT feel the same way about murderers or pedophiles, yet somehow, Marijuana offenses are grouped in the same category, and that's not right, in my opinion.”

**(D) Mike Nickerson: I**

Nickerson is a pastor and first-time legislative candidate. Dickerson did not respond to our survey despite myriad contacts. Sadly, our research did not uncover anything related to Nickerson and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate him at this time.





## State Senate Legislative District 18

### **(D) Priya Sundareshan: A-**

[Sundareshan](#) teaches natural resources law at the University of Arizona. This first-time legislative candidate responded to our survey noting her agreement or strong agreement with all but one statement on it. She strongly supports the criminal law components of our political agenda, including defelonization of non-violent cannabis offenses, making expungements automatic, and expanding our expungement laws to cover a broader variety of offenses. Additionally, Sundareshan strongly supports protecting the rights of pregnant medical marijuana patients who consume cannabis at their doctor's orders. Meanwhile, Sundareshan's support was slightly more tepid for keeping protections in our marijuana DUI laws, expanding the marketplace to provide for more open & fair competition, and strengthening the medical program, although she does agree with these goals as well.

### **(R) Stan Caine: I**

[Caine](#) worked for over thirty years in the Department of Defense. This first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey despite myriad contacts. Unfortunately, our research did not yield anything relevant to Caine and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate him at this time.



## State Senate Legislative District 19

### **(R) David Gowan: A**

Another leading candidate for President of the Senate, [Gowan](#) served in the House in LD30 for two terms after first being elected in 2008. He then was elected to a seat in the House in LD14 in 2012 and served two terms. In 2016, he unsuccessfully ran for District 1 in the US Congress. Gowan returned to win the Senate seat in 2018 in LD14 and he has maintained that seat until today. Gowan returns this year with a run for the Senate seat in LD19. Gowan did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts.

Here's what we had to say about Gowan in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: “While Gowan deserves recognition for his sponsorship of SB1494 (the omnibus testing bill with 2-year medical marijuana cards) that passed in 2019, he was still responsible for the “handcuff the industry” bills along with Senator Borrelli in 2019. However, he did sponsor SB1286 in 2019 which sought to give priority to rural areas with respect to dispensaries.”

We have had the pleasure of working with Gowan through the stakeholder process this year with respect to HB2050, and we have been very impressed with him. We truly appreciate his willingness to help rural patients and to ensure that the products sold to consumers are safe and free from harmful contaminants. He clearly “gets” the need to let more entrepreneurs benefit from legalization and to adopt sensible regulations for our incipient industry.

We look forward to Gowan leading again next year on cannabis-related issues and are excited to continue working with him. We are honored to bump his grade from 2020 and are very appreciative of his support at the legislature.



## State Senate Legislative District 20

### **(D) Sally Gonzales: A**

[Gonzales](#) first won a House seat in LD03 in 2010 and maintained that seat through the 2016 election. She was then elected to the Senate for LD03 in 2018 and has held that seat until today. Gonzales returns this year with a run for the Senate seat in LD20. Gonzales did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts. Gonzales has been a co-sponsor for many bills related to cannabis reform through her tenure in the legislature. She is always more than willing to meet with us and has been supportive of our efforts. Gonzales did cast a yes vote on HB2050 this year and took time to talk with us about the bill. She clearly demonstrated her support of rural patients and efforts to ensure that cannabis products are safe for consumption.

## State Senate Legislative District 21

### **(D) Rosanna Gabaldon: A+**

[Gabaldon](#) was elected to a seat in the House in LD02 in 2012 and successfully maintained that seat until 2020. She then won the Senate seat in LD02 in 2020. She returns this year for a run at the Senate seat in LD21. Gabaldon has been an incredible ally at the capitol during her years of service and is always more than willing to meet with Arizona NORML to discuss cannabis issues. She responded to our survey in full support of enhancing the legal market with fairer competition and small business ownership. Gabaldon acknowledges the medicinal value of cannabis and strongly agrees that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions and that the cost of medical



marijuana cards should be reduced. Furthermore, Gabaldon strongly supports automatic expungements, increasing the number of non-violent cannabis offenses to expungement law and defelonizing those offenses. She is adamant that DCS should not penalize individuals who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the behest of a medical professional and that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be the sole indicator of impairment.

We are grateful for the strong and consistent support from Gabaldon throughout her years at the capitol and truly appreciate her leadership. She added this thought in addition to her survey responses: “I have served in the legislature since 2013 and have advocated for responsible use.”

Lastly, we truly appreciate Gabaldon’s willingness to meet with us regarding HB2050 and her yes vote on the bill helping to advance it out of the Senate.

### **(R) Jim Cleveland: I**

We could not find a campaign website or related social media for this write-in candidate. Cleveland is a United States Navy veteran who is currently a teacher and pastor. Despite repeated emails, Cleveland did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research did not yield anything relative to Cleveland and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate him at this time.



## State Senate Legislative District 22

*Well... This is a \*highly\* unusual contest. After winning the Democratic primary, Diego Espinoza— one of our A-rated candidates— withdrew from this election. Consequently, a write-in candidate will prevail, but which one is anyone's guess. Due to these late developments, we unfortunately do not have survey responses from the write-in candidates.*

### State Senate Legislative District 23

**(D) Brian Fernandez: A**

[Fernandez](#) has worked in the development of technology companies and was appointed to a House seat in LD04 in November of 2021. He returns this year with a Senate run in LD23. Fernandez responded to our survey and agreed that fairer competition in the legal market would help to generate more revenue and reign in the illicit market and he strongly agreed that the market would be enhanced by craft licensing and small business ownership. Fernandez recognizes the value of medical cannabis and fully supports the addition of Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions while agreeing that the cost of medical marijuana cards should be reduced. Furthermore, he was steadfast in his support of automatic expungements as well as ameliorating existing expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and defelonizing those types of offenses. Lastly, Fernandez was adamant that DCS should not penalize any individual who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the advisement of a medical professional and agreed that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

We appreciate Fernandez's willingness to meet with us to discuss HB2050 and his two yes votes on the bill.

**(R) Gary Garcia Snyder: I**

[Garcia Snyder](#) is a first-time legislative candidate who did not respond to our survey despite repeated emails. Unfortunately, we couldn't find anything relevant to Garcia Snyder and cannabis-related issues in our research so we are unable to rate him at this time.



## State Senate Legislative District 24

### **(D) Anna Hernandez: A-**

[Hernandez](#) is a first-time legislative candidate who many expect to become a champion in the Senate for drug policy reformers. Her survey responses were consistent with this expectation. Hernandez expressed agreement with all but one of the statements in the survey. She supports our criminal law agenda regarding expungement and defelonization, expanding the regulated marketplace to promote competition, and bolstering our medical marijuana program. Hernandez disagreed with no statement and only expressed neutrality regarding issues concerning the Department of Child Services.



## State Senate Legislative District 25

### (R) Sine Kerr: D-

[Kerr](#) was a mid-term replacement in the Senate in LD13 in January of 2018. She then won the seat outright in November of 2018 and has maintained it until today. Kerr is seeking the Senate seat in LD25 this election cycle. Despite repeated attempts at contact, Kerr did not respond to our survey. Furthermore, she has refused to meet with us in the last two years of her tenure in the legislature. We'll let her own words scare... oops... inform you as to her sentiments relative to marijuana in a Prop 207 message that she penned in vociferous opposition to the 2020 initiative:

“Arizona is a national leader in so many areas. It’s time we lead again by defeating Proposition 207. Why? First and foremost, we must do better for our kids. As a mother of four and a grandmother of 11, I am deeply saddened by the prospect of how this initiative would harm children. States that have passed initiatives similar to Prop 207 lead the country in rates of kids using. Arizona would be no different. Kids would become easy prey for an industry hungry to create a new generation of users. Prop 207 would give the industry license to advertise on every platform, establish retail stores in every major locality, and sell edible marijuana products like gummies, cookies, candy, soda, and vape pens. With those conditions, the industry will succeed in hooking too many of our kids and stealing their potential early. Scientific research has revealed that when kids use marijuana before their brain has fully developed (which doesn’t occur until their late 20’s), it can damage their brain and obstruct development. The results range from slower processing, inability to concentrate, and decreased motivation to permanent IQ loss. Some will become dependent on marijuana long-term. This is reason enough to vote no. But Prop 207 would also make it more dangerous for us and our families out on the road. The increase in users will lead to an increase in impaired drivers, as we have seen in other states. 70% of Colorado users admit they drive stoned – and almost a third do it daily. In Washington, drivers testing positive for THC tripled after they passed a similar initiative. Those aren’t good odds for our families to be up against when we get in the car. I encourage you to protect Arizona’s families and future and reject Prop 207. Sine Kerr, State Senator LD13, State of Arizona, Buckeye”

While we don’t like Kerr’s sentiments regarding cannabis, we are appreciative of her yes vote on HB2050 in this session.



## State Senate Legislative District 26

### **(D) Raquel Terán: A+**

Terán first ran unsuccessfully for the Senate seat in LD30 in 2012. She returned in 2018 to win the House seat in LD30 and maintained that seat until September of 2021 when she was appointed to the Senate seat in LD30. Terán is seeking the Senate seat in LD26 in this election cycle. Terán did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts.



Here's what Terán told us in 2020: "I think we need to regulate and tax and make sure we are not penalizing people for consumption of marijuana."

In 2018, Terán told the AZ Central: "Yes, we must regulate and tax Marijuana. It has the potential to create a large commercial sector that could grow the economy and provide jobs for the people in Arizona. Secondly it will provide a large flow of tax revenue that may help with the much needed revenue that is critical to fund social services and transportation. Third, for far too long people have been criminalized for using cannabis, thus creating a large pool of people with criminal records which makes it harder for them to find jobs, homes, and basically causing them to become second class citizens."

Terán is always willing to meet with us either for our lobby weeks or to discuss specific bills. She is incredibly supportive of our efforts and has even mentioned Arizona NORML on the floor of the Senate. Lastly, she met with us to discuss HB2050 this session and voted yes on the bill.

## State Senate Legislative District 27

### **(R) Anthony Kern: F**

Kern was first elected to a House seat in LD20 in 2014 and held the seat until losing it in 2020. He is seeking the Senate seat in LD27 this election cycle. Unsurprisingly, Kern did not respond to our survey despite myriad efforts to contact him.

Since Kern was not in the legislature over the last two years, here's what we had to say about him in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "Kern has been hostile to cannabis and has been known to make disparaging remarks relative to cannabis in committee hearings. In fact, here's what Arizona NORML had to say about him in our 2018 General Election Candidate Guide: 'During HR1820 (the testing bill) Kern used his speeches to belittle and insult cannabis medical patients. His votes on the testing bill aside, Kern needs educating.' In the ivoterguide, Kern strongly disagreed with supporting the legalization of marijuana. As chairman of the House Rules Committee, Kern has the capacity to stymie cannabis-related bills by not allowing them to pass through the committee. In 2019, the legislature tried to fix the statute discrepancies between the definitions of marijuana and cannabis in response to the Jones Case. That effort resulted in HB2149. Kern was opposed to HB2149 and was quoted in Filter as to why: "I went to go get my haircut and they're right next to one of these dispensaries, said Republican Representative Anthony Kern, when justifying his vote. The people cutting my hair were talking about the clientele outside the dispensary, the fact that they're getting more and more crimes being committed in that parking lot. They're afraid to come out of their job. Tweaking the definition does a disservice to public safety, and a disservice to our constituents.""

Kern is fully deserving of his grade as he is truly an enemy to cannabis consumers and medical marijuana patients.

### **(D) Brittani Barraza: I**

Barraza did not submit a campaign website, phone number or email in the Secretary of State listings so we were unable to contact her. Barraza is running as a write-in candidate for the Senate seat in LD27 and she appears to be a first-time legislative candidate. Sadly, we were unable to unearth anything relative to Barraza and cannabis-related issues in our research so we cannot rate her at this time.

## State Senate Legislative District 28

### **(R) Frank Carroll: F**

[Carroll](#) first won a House seat in LD22 in 2018 and he has maintained that seat until today. He is seeking the Senate seat in LD28 this election cycle. Despite repeated attempts at contact, Carroll did not respond to our survey.

Here's what we had to say about Carroll in our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide: "In 2018, Carroll told CAP that he is a no on legalization. Carroll showed his true colors in the 2020 legislative session by co-sponsoring the repugnant HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% THC cap in the medical marijuana program) and HCR2044. HCR2044 sought to raid money from the medical marijuana fund and use it to fund mental health and substance abuse treatment beds in the State Department of Corrections."

Carroll has refused to meet with us over the last two years in the legislature. His unwillingness to respond to our survey and his flip to a no vote on HB2050 on reconsideration leaves us no choice but to grade him based on past history.

### **(D) David Sandoval: I**

[Sandoval](#) is a local business owner who was first elected to the Peoria Unified School District Governing Board in 2016 and he was reelected to serve on that board in 2020. This first-time legislative candidate did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts. Sadly, we were unable to uncover anything relative to Sandoval and cannabis-related issues in our research so we cannot rate him at his time.



## State Senate Legislative District 29

### **(D) David Raymer: B**

Raymer is a Doctor of Chiropractic who is running as a write-in candidate for the Senate seat in LD29. We could not find a campaign website or related social media platforms for Raymer and he did not respond to our survey. However, Raymer did respond to a Fox 10 Phoenix Facebook post dated November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 that referenced the victory of Prop 207. Here's what he had to say: "Happy for them and rather have my patients using cannabis than oxycontin or fentanyl which are addictive and deadly."

### **(R) Janae Shamp: I**

[Shamp](#) is a registered nurse and first-time legislative candidate. Despite myriad emails, Shamp did not respond to our survey. Sadly, we were unable to find anything relative to Shamp and cannabis-related issues in our research so we simply cannot rate her at this time.



## State Senate Legislative District 30

### **(R) Sonny Borrelli: B**

[Borrelli](#) first won a House seat in LD05 in 2012 and won the same seat again in 2014. Borrelli then won the Senate seat in LD05 in 2016 and has maintained that seat until today. He is seeking the Senate seat in LD30 this election cycle. Despite repeated contacts, Borrelli did not respond to our survey.

For a historical perspective, here's what we had to say about Borrelli in our General Election Candidate Guide in 2020: "Borrelli did answer our volunteer call and said that he opposes Prop 207 but is not hostile to medical marijuana. Here's what Arizona NORML had to say about Borrelli in our General Election Candidate Guide in 2018: "Despite a strong anti-legalization stance, Borrelli has emerged as a leading GOP reformer on medical cannabis issues, pushing through the 2018 hemp bill and working every year on an unsuccessful bill that would have established testing standards for the industry. Post primary, Sen. Borrelli has again confirmed that he is planning another robust reform agenda for improving the medical marijuana program and has bills in the works for the 2019 session.""

We continued: "Borrelli certainly was true to his word in 2019. He was the prime sponsor of SB1003 (which dealt with industrial hemp licensing), SB1024 (which dealt with the reporting of sales data by dispensaries), SB1137 (which dealt with medical marijuana and prohibited chemicals) and SB1138 (which sought to allow medical marijuana cards to last for two years and reduced the fees for the cards). Borrelli also co-sponsored HB2273 (which dealt with industrial hemp licensing) and SB1222 (which dealt with dispensary inspections). Borrelli came back in 2020 with similar bills relative to hemp and the medical marijuana program. While Borrelli is opposed to Prop 207, his work has been prolific in the Senate relative to hemp and medical marijuana."

Borrelli has not met with us in the last two legislative sessions. Since he is running unopposed, we'd like to be able to work more with Borrelli in the upcoming legislative sessions. We do appreciate his support and yes vote on HB2050 recently in the Senate.

## Arizona Governor

### **(D) Katie Hobbs: C+**

[Hobbs](#) first won a House seat in LD15 in 2010. She returned in 2012 to win the Senate seat in LD24 and she was reelected to that seat in 2014 and 2106. Hobbs then won Secretary of State in 2018 and has held that position until today. She is back this year running for Arizona Governor. Despite repeated contacts, Hobbs did not respond to our survey. We'll take a brief historical look at Hobbs by sharing with you what Arizona NORML had to say about Hobbs in 2018: "As a leading Democratic senator, Hobbs has had numerous opportunities to support reforms and the cannabis industry. While she says she supports the idea of medical marijuana and signed on to other's legislation, she has yet to take an active role."

It is important to recognize that this review of Hobbs occurred after she had already served 7 years in the legislature. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Jeremy Duda tweeted this: "Following the passage of Prop 207, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office will dismiss all pending and unfiled marijuana and paraphernalia possession charges." Hobbs tweeted this response: "This is a really big deal."

Unfortunately, we couldn't find anything else in our research relative to Hobbs and cannabis-related issues. Given the importance of this Arizona gubernatorial race, we certainly wish Hobbs had responded to our survey so that we could ascertain her current positions. Without those responses, we'll trust what our colleagues had to say about her in 2018 and maintain her grade from that year but we'll add a + to it given her tweet.

### **(R) Kari Lake: F**

[Lake](#) is a former anchor for Fox 10 News in Phoenix who is running for Governor this election cycle. Despite myriad contacts, Lake did not respond to our survey. In 2018, Lake tried to conflate the Red for Ed Movement with the legalization of marijuana. In an azcentral.com article entitled "Local news anchor Kari Lake apologizes for tweet that #RedforEd is a cover to legalize pot" that appeared on May 1st, 2018, Lake's tweet and Facebook posts were exposed.

Here's the tweet: "What did I say?! #RedForED is nothing more than a push to legalize pot. Check this out. T-Shirts are already printed!! This is a big push to legalize pot and to make it more savory by tossing teachers a bone with a substantial raise. 'IHateTheDishonesty.'" And here's the Facebook post: "How much Legalize-Pot \$\$ is being poured into Red For Ed? Or are the legalize-pot-folks just piggybacking on the teacher pay issue? Either way, it seems unsavory"

We find Lake’s tweet and Facebook post unsavory. Even though Lake deleted the posts and apologized after receiving a rather large amount of blowback, we can’t help but to think that this is how she truly feels. Both cannabis consumers and teachers should be equally offended by her inanity.

**(L) Barry Hess: B**

The link to Hess’s website was broken and we couldn’t find any social media platforms related to his current campaign. Hess is a perennial candidate who is a write-in this cycle for Arizona Governor. Because he is a Libertarian, he will only compete in the general election. Hess ran unsuccessfully for the United States Senate in 2000 and 2018 and ran four times for Governor in 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014. He also unsuccessfully ran for United States President in 2008.

Hess responded to our survey and strongly disagreed that fairer competition would enhance the legal market and help to generate more tax revenue. However, he was neutral on whether the market should be expanded to include craft licenses and small business ownership. Hess recognizes the medicinal value of cannabis and was strongly supportive of adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions and decreasing medical marijuana card costs. Hess fully supported automatic expungements and enhancing current expungement law to include more non-violent cannabis offenses and he agreed that those types of offenses should be defeloned. Finally, Hess was adamant that DCS should not penalize any individual who consumed medical marijuana while pregnant at the direction of a medical professional and strongly agreed that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

Hess offered the following comments in addition to his survey responses: “I thought this was a cannabis activist group. I had to agree to some questions, but my position has always been about bodily autonomy. Each individual alone has the right to do to; or put into; their body what they decide. Of course, I also maintain that each individual is 100% responsible for the actions their bodies may take. I do not believe cannabis should be regulated at all, and not taxed, either. It needs to be completely decriminalized, and wiped off the books. Businesses should all be free to organize and compete, regardless of the industry. The idea of begging for 'licenses' is repugnant to anyone who believes in individual liberty.”

**(IG) William Pounds: I**

Pounds is running for governor with the Independent Green Party. Although we do not have enough information to grade pounds, he did offer the following statement to our national organization, which we are including in the guide for your consideration: “The racist drug war is the main cause for increases in southern migration & cartel power. It has created the same



demand for a dangerous black market that alcohol prohibition once did for the mob. I want to legalize, tax, & regulate most federally controlled substances for recreational usage & decriminalize substance abuse entirely. Addiction must be treated as a public health issue, not a criminal issue, addiction is a disease & I don't believe in punishing the sick. I advocate full legalization of THC, no matter the amount. Also, I would like my name to be listed with an (IG), not just an (I). I'm the candidate for the Independent-Green Party of Arizona.”



## Arizona Attorney General

### **(R) Abraham Hamadeh: I**

Hamadeh is an intelligence officer in the United States Army Reserve and is a former prosecutor with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Unfortunately, Hamadeh did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts. Our research was unable to uncover anything relative to Hamadeh and cannabis-related issues so we cannot rate him at this time.

### **(D) Kris Mayes: I**

Mayes was appointed to the Arizona Corporation Commission in 2003 and maintained that seat until she was term-limited in 2010. Since then, she has worked as a senior sustainability scientist at ASU's School of Global Sustainability. Despite repeated contacts, Mayes did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research did not yield anything relative to Mayes and cannabis-related issues so we simply cannot rate her at this time.

### **(LBT) Michael Kielsky: B**

Kielsky is an attorney who ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD25 in 2014 and did not make the ballot for Attorney General in 2018. He returns this year for a run at Arizona Attorney General. Kielsky responded to our survey and remained neutral on both enhancing fairer competition in the legal market as well as promoting craft licenses and small business ownership. While he strongly agreed to the medicinal value of cannabis and that Autism Spectrum Disorder should be added to the list of qualifying conditions, he remained neutral on reducing medical marijuana card costs. Kielsky expressed full support for automatic expungements and that more non-violent cannabis offenses should be added to existing expungement law. However, he remained neutral on the defelonization of those types of offenses. Lastly, Kielsky was adamant that DCS should not penalize anyone who consumed medical marijuana at the recommendation of a medical professional while pregnant and he strongly agreed that the mere presence of THC metabolites should not be used as the sole indicator of impairment.

Kielsky seemed to contradict some of his neutrality relative to the survey questions with the following comments that he offered: "There should be no taxation, licensing, or regulation at all, of any kind, and all possession, whether 1/3 oz. or 300 pounds should never be a crime. I don't disagree that a taxed, licensed, and regulated MJ market is far better than criminalizing MJ, but let's not accept the lesser evil as good. Promoting fair competition between responsible and unregulated businesses is the best way to increase cannabis access to those who want it and reign in Arizona's underground market. Non-violent cannabis offenses should not qualify as felonies. Crimes against children or other serious offenses should be treated as those crimes, regardless of any nexus to MJ. There should be no government fee for issuing a medical marijuana



card, there should be no need for a medical marijuana card, but if one must exist, the fee should be significantly less than any cost of processing applications. There should be no need for specific craft licenses -- free the market completely to diversify the market and promote small business ownership. If that is not achievable, specific craft licenses should be widely available for specific activities like cultivation, product manufacturing, and infused food products, at no or very low cost."