

# Fact Sheet for Robert Scantlebury Republican Candidate for AZ Senate — LD9

### **Criminalizing Abortion**

1 Scantlebury <u>supports</u> prohibition of abortion except when it is necessary to prevent the death of the mother\*.

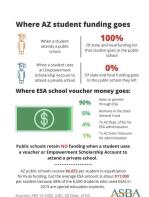
<u>Background Information:</u> In Arizona, SB1164 was signed into law effective 9/24/22. This new law is a <u>Mississippi-style abortion ban</u> that only exempts cases of "medical emergency." Because of <u>the absurd way pregnancy dates are calculated</u>, it kicks in at 11 weeks of pregnancy, at most. Doctors who help women anyway would face class 6 felony charges, with no exceptions for rape or incest. It would also <u>ban abortions for families that learn in pregnancy later on that a fetus is not viable</u>.

\*<u>Arizona pre-Roe law</u>: a near-total abortion ban first enacted decades before Arizona was granted statehood in 1912, and it's only exception is if the life of the patient is in danger. Recently, Arizona's Assistant Attorney General <u>urged a judge</u> to allow the state to enforce the 1912 near-total ban on abortions, and a decision to <u>reinstate</u> the ban was made on 9/23/22. Effectively, there are 2 abortion bans on the books in Arizona, with no certainty about which one is law.

### **Defunding Public Education**

2 Scantlebury supports allowing all parents to use tax credits, vouchers, or education savings accounts to enable their children to attend any public, charter, private, homeschool, or online academy–regardless of accreditation, teacher qualifications, or curriculum. "Funding should follow the student and be directed to the school of their choice."

<u>Background Information</u>: This removes priority status from students with special needs who use the current ESA voucher program and <u>will siphon at least \$1 billion from AZ K-12 public schools every</u>



single year. This is a 20% cut to schools, which they cannot withstand. Teachers will be laid off, class sizes will grow, and schools will ultimately be forced to close, resulting in fewer neighborhood options for Arizona families.

"The proponents of these policies and the corporate interests that bankroll them insist their goal is to improve the quality of education – a dubious claim, this report states" "in the face of the reality that too often there is little to no public accountability, fiscal transparency, or maintenance of civil rights protections for students in privatized programs." ESA proponents often laud "the money following the child" without acknowledging that public schools are faced with far less resources and unchanged overhead costs. (enlarge infographic here)

3 Scantlebury <u>supports</u> keeping last year's massive income tax cut in Arizona's state tax code. He further states he would continue to reduce and then eliminate income tax.

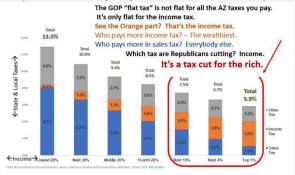
<u>Background Information</u>: Conservative columnist Robert Robb points out that <u>"Arizona must now pay a tax rate that neither voters nor lawmakers approved."</u> "Arizona had a top individual income tax rate of 4.5%. Voters decided to increase it to 8% <u>(Prop 208-Invest in Education Act)</u>. The Legislature decided to return it to 4.5%." (defunding public schools) Finally, "the Arizona Supreme Court has decreed it to be 2.5%, not subject to any democratic confirmation."

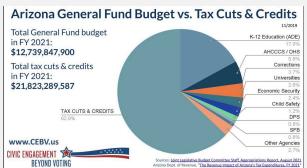


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### **Defunding Public Education — continued**

<u>Background Information</u>: The majority of our taxes fund education in Arizona, and cutting taxes will only starve our schools further. The revenues that AZ collects add up to all the services you receive: neighborhood schools, roads, parks, broadband, libraries, civic services, and healthcare. If lawmakers reduced the tax cuts and credits received by pet special interests, the wealthy, and businesses, the state could cut taxes for ALL. Decades of irresponsible governing and the new "flat tax" have fed economic <u>economic inequality</u> in Arizona. For the average Arizona resident, sales tax comprises the majority of their tax burden. (view full-size <u>bar chart</u> & <u>pie chart</u>)





### **Roadblocks to Voting**

4 Scantlebury: "It is one of our greatest responsibilities to safeguard the integrity of our <u>elections</u> in order to protect our representative form of government."

<u>Background Information:</u> GOP lawmakers are working to restrict voting rights in Arizona. "Legislation is categorized as restrictive if it would make it harder for eligible Americans to register, stay on the rolls, and/or vote as compared to existing state law." To read further about voting laws that current Arizona state lawmakers have continued to introduce or enact that restrict access to the vote click here.

#### **Endorsements**

- Scantlebury is <u>endorsed</u> by the AZ Free Enterprise Club, a dark-money group that backed a recent successful lawsuit to <u>eliminate the AZ Free and Fair Elections Act from the November ballot</u>. This pro-voting ballot initiative was signed by nearly 500,000 Arizonans.
- Scantlebury is <u>endorsed</u> by Center for Arizona Policy, a right-wing dark-money group. "CAP's extremist agenda is <u>facilitated</u> by like-minded lawmakers." CAP's success in lobbying the Arizona Legislature has been described as follows: CAP "<u>take(s)</u> advantage of the fact that most Arizonans don't bother to turn out for the primary election where most races are decided. And then CAP makes sure that the legislators who do get elected know they are being watched."
- 7 | Scantlebury is <u>endorsed</u> by former President Donald J. Trump



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#### **Controlling & Censoring Education**

**9** Scantlebury <u>supports</u> requiring any government entity, including schools, to inform parents about their child's physical, emotional, or mental health.

<u>Background Information:</u> Gov. Ducey recently signed a law that gives parents <u>disturbingly broad</u> access to all their children's public school records unless <u>abuse reporting law</u> is involved, and allows parents to sue if not "satisfied." <u>House Bill 2161</u> by Rep. Steve Kaiser, R-Phoenix, began its legislative life as a more controversial bill that would have forced teachers to tell parents everything a student tells them — including outing them if a student <u>confides in a teacher that they are LGBTQ</u>.

### **LGBTQ+ Rights for Adults and Youth**

- Scantlebury opposes adding "sexual orientation," "gender identity," or "gender expression" to the protected classes of race, religion, age, sex, and ancestry in nondiscrimination law.
- 11 Scantlebury is <u>opposed</u> to allowing children assigned male at birth who identify as girls to play in team sports.

<u>Background Information</u>: The narrow, unscientific belief that there are only two genders has infected our politics and culture, and is often used by nonscientists to claim a scientific basis for dehumanizing those they don't understand. The truth is, <u>biological sex and gender are complicated</u>. Over a third of Americans in their teens and early 20s <u>know someone who uses</u> gender-neutral pronouns, and <u>one out of every 100 Americans is intersex</u>. Nonbinary people have existed across history and cultures, and deserve identification that matches their identities. Arizona's LGBTQ+ Equality Profile is <u>here</u>.

Scantlebury <u>supports</u> allowing parents to seek professional counseling for their minor children with same-sex attraction or gender identity issues—a practice dangerously close to the discredited "conversion therapy.".

<u>Background Information</u>: This is in reference to reparative (conversion) therapy, which the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry asserts "<u>lacks scientific credibility and clinical utility.</u>" "Additionally, there is evidence that such interventions are harmful." <u>In 2022, the Arizona Legislature held a hearing</u> on HB2802 which proposed making licensed health providers offering conversion therapy to minors subject to discipline from their state licensing boards, effectively banning the practice in an official capacity. Parents and unlicensed religious figures, however, would be exempt.

### **Public Safety**

Scantlebury on <u>law enforcement</u>: "They need proper leadership, funding, staffing, training, and equipment to effectively enforce the laws of Arizona."

As a former Mesa Police Officer, Robert Scantlebury was named in a 2014 <u>excessive use of force claim</u>. Perhaps more training is necessary?



### Fact Sheet for Robert Scantlebury Republican Candidate for AZ House — LD9

### **Public Transportation**

Scantlebury captioned this <u>picture he posted on Facebook</u> by alluding to homelessness as a reason to oppose public transportation. "Gilbert citizens, let Mesa be a warning to what comes with Light Rail. Take a tour around Mesa before you wish for an extension to your area.." Coincidentally, he is endorsed by the Koch-connected Arizona Free Enterprise Club, which <u>opposes</u> light rail expansion in Arizona. They've stated "it seems the only thing commuter rails may be good for at this point is <u>increasing crime</u>... and your taxes."

### **Far-right Politics**

15 Scantlebury: "I fully <u>support</u> the America First policies put in place by President Donald J. Trump."

<u>Background Information</u>: America First refers to a <u>policy</u> stance in the United States that generally emphasizes <u>nationalism</u> and <u>non-interventionism</u>. America First has a <u>disturbing history</u> that a number of scholars (such as <u>Deborah Dash Moore</u>), commentators (such as <u>Bill Kristol</u>) and Jewish organizations (including the <u>ADL</u> and <u>JCPA</u>) criticized Trump's use of the slogan because of its historical association with <u>nativism</u> and <u>anti-Semitism</u>.