

Living Desert Alliance 2026 Arizona Candidate Survey Side-by-Side Comparison

Verbatim Candidate Responses Organized by Contest and Question

November 2026 Arizona General Election

The Living Desert Alliance presents this side-by-side comparison of verbatim survey responses from candidates in the November 2026 Arizona General Election. Candidates are grouped by contest. Within each contest, responses are presented question by question to allow direct side-by-side comparison. All answers appear exactly as submitted by each candidate. Note: Gary Garcia Snyder did not submit a response to Question 4. Emilia Cortez's response to Question 2 appears as submitted and mirrors her Question 1 response in the source data.

ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL

QUESTION 1 — WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

"Arizona faces significant reductions in Colorado River deliveries due to the Central Arizona Project's junior priority status. If elected, how would you approach protecting the state's long-term water supply, and what principles would guide your decisions when weighing the needs of agricultural communities alongside municipal growth under these reduced allocations?"

Kris Mayes

Arizona cannot afford to do irresponsible things with our water. The 30% reduction of Colorado River water makes it even more vital that we protect our groundwater resources. In Western Arizona, I sued the Saudi Arabian dairy company Fondomonte. They have been pumping an extreme amount of groundwater, enough for 93,000 single-family homes for a full year. This has caused fissures in the ground, houses to cave in, and wells to go dry in La Paz County. They are growing alfalfa, shipping it back to the gulf to feed their cattle. I have sued them to protect the residents in the surrounding area and prevent them from abusing the Ranegras Plain Basin. In

Kris Mayes

Cochise County, I secured an \$11 million settlement with Riverview Dairy because they were also overpumping water and causing their neighbor's wells to run dry. The settlement agreed to fallow 2,000 acres of land and millions of dollars for redrilling wells of impacted Arizonans. It has already redrilled or provided water access to twenty-two families in Cochise County. I have used the power of my office to go after bad actors misusing our precious resources. There is a need for a statewide approach to water management. Not just in the urban areas but all across the state so that we don't have corporate farms abusing our groundwater and causing multi generational ranches and farms to dry up. I have already delivered results in my first term and I will keep fighting.

QUESTION 2 — LAND DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH PLANNING

"How do you believe Pima County should balance new residential and commercial development with the preservation of natural landscapes, wildlife corridors, and community character?"

Kris Mayes

Protecting Arizona's clean air, land, and water needs to come first- but I don't believe it has to be at odds with growth and development. There are better locations, not near towns, and with proper energy and water resources, for these large projects to come in. As Attorney General, my job is to fight for Arizonans and their communities first. That's why I sued major PFAS manufacturers including 3M and DuPont in May 2023 for contaminating the state's natural resources and water supplies with toxic forever chemicals. I also worked with the local community of Benson to discourage ADI from building a smelter next to a senior living facility and an elementary school. I will always give rural communities a voice as they fight to protect their way of life.

QUESTION 3 — DATA CENTERS: WATER & ENERGY USE

"What is your position on the development of large-scale data centers in Pima County, given their water consumption, electrical demand, and limited long-term job creation? What conditions or safeguards would you require before approving such projects?"

Kris Mayes

I have called for a statewide pause on new data center construction until the legislature develops a plan to manage the industry's growth. I believe that our water and energy supply belong to us and not to out of state mega corporations. I have opposed the 14% rate increase from APS and TEP because they are pushing the cost of data centers onto the consumer. When I was on the corporation commission, I saved consumers billions of dollars and stood up to our monopoly utilities. Arizona is not the right place for data centers, and they do not provide long term job creation that Arizona needs. We owe it to our communities and the next generation to better

Kris Mayes

manage our water and power needs before any new data center approvals are issued. My office announced a town hall as we investigate the future data center in Ahwatukee. We intervened in the Project Blue case and made the public aware of a redacted or hidden rate formula that was in their contract that would have allowed the utility to automatically raise the rates for residential utility players. It's unacceptable. I will continue to fight for Arizonans and their right to decide what projects are right for their communities.

QUESTION 4 — ICE DETENTION FACILITIES

"How should Pima County approach proposals for new or expanded ICE detention facilities, considering impacts on nearby neighborhoods, public safety, and community relations?"

Kris Mayes

Any new ICE detention facility is required to take the proper steps to comply with the law so that it is capable of housing people they detain in an appropriate environment. In Surprise, ICE tried to convert a shipping warehouse into a detention facility without getting an environmental impact study done. A warehouse that is zoned for industrial use and located directly across a facility storing hazardous chemicals. I sued the administration over the proposed detention facility for community safety concerns. The government agreed to stop any construction on the facility till the proper review is done. The federal government, especially ICE, is not above the law. Their action across the country and in Arizona caused me to create a first-of-its-kind portal on the Attorney General's website for Arizonans to submit photos, videos, and other evidence of potential misconduct by federal agents. If federal officers engage in excessive force or civil-rights violations, Arizonans deserve a direct way to report it to my office.

QUESTION 5 — EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

"What are your priorities for improving educational outcomes and workforce readiness in Pima County, and how would you collaborate with local school districts, higher education institutions, and employers to achieve them?"

Kris Mayes

As Attorney General, it is a priority to make sure that we protect funding for public education. That is why I have aggressively prosecuted those defrauding Arizona's ESA voucher program. My office has prosecuted out of state residents printing fake birth certificates to steal voucher money with fake children. We are currently engaging in a tax-payer protection investigation against likely fraudulent uses of ESAs. No public official is allowed to permit taxpayer dollars to be misspent, especially allowing our education funding to be spent on lingerie and diamond rings. I have also stood up to the federal government when they tried to defund programs like Headstart that have

Kris Mayes

been vital to the development of our children. I have also protected federal funding to our universities, especially funding that goes towards research that will train the next generation of scientists and engineers. I can protect our public school and make sure that we are not wasting taxpayer money, so that we can educate the next generation and set Arizona up for success.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

QUESTION 1 — WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

"Arizona faces significant reductions in Colorado River deliveries due to the Central Arizona Project's junior priority status. If elected, how would you approach protecting the state's long-term water supply, and what principles would guide your decisions when weighing the needs of agricultural communities alongside municipal growth under these reduced allocations?"

Dr. Terry Leyba Ruiz

While the Superintendent of Public Instruction has no direct oversight over water policy and conservation, I firmly support measures to protect Arizona's long-term water supply and lead with good stewardship of our natural resources. As Superintendent, I will support robust CTE programs, such as Agriscience and FFA, that promote responsible management of our water and natural resources. I'll create the Office of Rural and Small Schools to ensure that our rural and agricultural communities have access to high-quality education and Agriscience programming. Additionally, I'll support internal Department of Education policies to streamline sustainability and ensure my office leaves a minimal impact on our water supply and environment.

QUESTION 2 — LAND DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH PLANNING

"How do you believe Pima County should balance new residential and commercial development with the preservation of natural landscapes, wildlife corridors, and community character?"

Dr. Terry Leyba Ruiz

While the Superintendent of Public Instruction does not directly oversee development, my vision for governance centers community input and bottom-up support. Much like how I believe development decisions should center the communities most impacted, I'll partner with local school districts and provide the

Dr. Terry Leyba Ruiz

resources and support they request — rather than impose my own ideology. Our local school districts know what is best for their communities, and should be honored as such by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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Dr. Terry Leyba Ruiz

While the Superintendent of Public Instruction does not directly oversee data centers and environmental policies, I firmly believe in climate-conscious policies that protect our environment without passing costs onto consumers. As Superintendent, I'll partner with experts and school districts to ensure ethical and responsible use of AI in the classroom — with an underlying understanding of the environmental implications behind such policies.

QUESTION 4 — ICE DETENTION FACILITIES

"How should Pima County approach proposals for new or expanded ICE detention facilities, considering impacts on nearby neighborhoods, public safety, and community relations?"

Dr. Terry Leyba Ruiz

The Arizona Constitution guarantees all students — regardless of immigration status and documentation — the right to public education. As federal agents continue to use violence against our communities, I align with guidance to school districts put out by our Attorney General, designating point contacts and procedures for ICE on school property. All students deserve high-quality public education without fear of ICE violence against them or their parents, and as Superintendent of Public Instruction, I will partner with school districts to provide resources, guidance, and support for ensuring our students remain unharmed by federal overreach.

QUESTION 5 — EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

"What are your priorities for improving educational outcomes and workforce readiness in Pima County, and how would you collaborate with local school districts, higher education institutions, and employers to achieve them?"

Dr. Terry Leyba Ruiz

As a 35-year career educator, I've seen firsthand the importance of robust CTE programs and expanded options for students to achieve internships, apprenticeships, and hands-on experience in technical fields. In my role as president of Glendale Community, I partnered with industry leaders, business owners, and community members to create workforce development programs within the community college levels. I'm proud to be endorsed by labor unions across the state, and plan to work with them collaboratively to ensure we're prioritizing both educational outcomes and workforce readiness. I'll create a CTE Advisory Council composed of industry experts and business leaders, advocate for increased funding into our classrooms and programming, and expand statewide partnerships with school districts, higher education institutions, and employers to provide the highest-quality education for our students.

STATE MINE INSPECTOR

QUESTION 1 — WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

"Arizona faces significant reductions in Colorado River deliveries due to the Central Arizona Project's junior priority status. If elected, how would you approach protecting the state's long-term water supply, and what principles would guide your decisions when weighing the needs of agricultural communities alongside municipal growth under these reduced allocations?"

Brian Matlock

My elected position provides only a bully pulpit - as such, I will adhere to and follow the guidance of experts and, if appropriate and based on sound data, I will offer my professional opinion regarding specific concerns. The issue is nuanced and a "one size fits all" response leaves too much uncertainty.

QUESTION 2 — LAND DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH PLANNING

"How do you believe Pima County should balance new residential and commercial development with the preservation of natural landscapes, wildlife corridors, and community character?"

Brian Matlock

Natural landscapes and wildlife corridors create community character - thoughtful land use planning and architecture design can balance livability with economic needs. Mining is known to disrupt natural landscapes; as State Mine Inspector I will

Brian Matlock

work with legislators and mining companies to develop best practices for minimizing and recovering landscapes disrupted for economic development by mining operations.

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Brian Matlock

Development of data centers or other non-mining facilities is not in the State Mine Inspector's jurisdiction

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"How should Pima County approach proposals for new or expanded ICE detention facilities, considering impacts on nearby neighborhoods, public safety, and community relations?"

Brian Matlock

Development of ICE detention facilities or other non-mining facilities is not in the State Mine Inspector's jurisdiction.

QUESTION 5 — EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

"What are your priorities for improving educational outcomes and workforce readiness in Pima County, and how would you collaborate with local school districts, higher education institutions, and employers to achieve them?"

Brian Matlock

As State Mine Inspector I plan to revise some mining codes to require certain training certifications for skilled labor working at Arizona mines. I will engage community organizations, which includes educational institutions, when developing the needed workforce to keep Arizona mines running safely. This includes setting minimum requirements for testing and certification to perform tasks at Arizona mines.

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

QUESTION 1 — WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

"Arizona faces significant reductions in Colorado River deliveries due to the Central Arizona Project's junior priority status. If elected, how would you approach protecting the state's long-term water supply, and what principles would guide your decisions when weighing the needs of agricultural communities alongside municipal growth under these reduced allocations?"

Jonathon Hill	Clara Pratte
My approach is grounded in two decades of scientific work as an engineer and geologist at Arizona State University. My PhD is in Geological Sciences so I bring a deep understanding of energy systems and hydrology and I am intimately aware of the urgency to protect our groundwater. Water is our most limited resource, so I will ensure the Arizona Corporation Commission does everything in our power to ensure private water companies are stopping leaks, improving efficiency, incentivizing conservation among customers and saving every drop possible. It should not be agriculture against cities, but both against data centers. The current Commission has placed no restrictions on data centers and their use of water as Arizona is up against unprecedented water shortages. As a Commissioner, I will prioritize projects that are water conscious and push existing data centers to adopt policies of water conservation.	Water is Arizona's most precious resource, and we have failed to treat it that way. As someone who grew up without running water, I understand how essential these services are. Every Arizonan deserves access to safe, reliable, and affordable water, whether they live in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Tucson, or a small rural community. We should be investing in infrastructure that reduces water loss, improves reliability, and helps communities prepare for long-term challenges. We also need to actively encourage conservation and fully utilize modern technologies that stretch our water supplies further without driving up costs for agricultural communities or preventing municipal growth. However, one of the biggest threats to our water supply is data centers. As Arizona Corporation Commissioner, I will prioritize projects that minimize water usage and require high water efficiency while enforcing transparency on energy and water usage data.

QUESTION 2 — LAND DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH PLANNING

"How do you believe Pima County should balance new residential and commercial development with the preservation of natural landscapes, wildlife corridors, and community character?"

Jonathon Hill	Clara Pratte
Arizona's counties should not have to	The future of Arizona's economy and the

Jonathon Hill	Clara Pratte
choose between protecting their environments and creating economic opportunities. We can do both through responsible planning and fair oversight. We should prioritize modernizing existing infrastructure so fewer new developments are needed. When that is not possible, new growth should be done in environmentally conscious, sustainable ways that minimize impact on the environment. Relevant agencies and organizations must be consulted so we understand the full impact of development on our environment and what can be done to balance the two objectives that often appear at odds. By investing in conservation, modernizing our infrastructure, and collaborating with environmental agencies and organizations, Arizona can protect our future while supporting responsible economic development that benefits all communities.	ability of businesses to open and grow in our state are directly tied to the way we protect our natural resources and environment today. We will not be able to continue to grow if we don't take immediate action to generate greater energy independence, reduce our reliance on outdated energy sources, eliminate wasteful water usage and uphold strong efficiency standards. We should modernize existing developments so they can support more people instead of immediately turning to the creation of new residential and commercial properties. Additionally, we need to work with local environmental groups and organizations so that when development is necessary, it can be done in a way that minimizes its impact on natural landscapes and wildlife corridors. We only have one planet, one Arizona, and as such, we need to work with our environment, not against it.

QUESTION 3 — DATA CENTERS: WATER & ENERGY USE

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Jonathon Hill	Clara Pratte
Unfortunately, the current Corporation Commission failed to anticipate and prepare for the completely predictable rapid rise in energy demand from Arizona's economic growth. Instead, they have chosen to engage in backroom, sweetheart deals with multibillion-dollar data center corporations, doing nothing to ensure that they pay their fair share and commit to minimizing water and energy usage. My pledge as a Commissioner will be to ensure companies building large, resource-intensive facilities pay the full cost of the infrastructure their projects require, report transparently on energy and water usage, and follow the strictest standards	Data centers need to be held responsible for the energy and water they use. For this to be possible, we need accurate reporting and full transparency from utilities. Utilities should be required to conduct transparent cost-of-service analyses to ensure rates accurately reflect the demands these facilities place on the grid. Major users should be subject to clear water-use and conservation requirements that reflect Arizona's long-term resource realities. Arizona's growing economy, including data centers, is increasing energy demand exponentially, but this growth should not come at the expense of Arizonans and our environment.

Jonathon Hill	Clara Pratte
for efficiency. Existing residents and small businesses should not be subsidizing private development or giving up our precious resources.	

QUESTION 4 — ICE DETENTION FACILITIES

"How should Pima County approach proposals for new or expanded ICE detention facilities, considering impacts on nearby neighborhoods, public safety, and community relations?"

Jonathon Hill	Clara Pratte
The Corporation Commission does not set immigration policy, but it does have a responsibility to ensure every Arizonan is treated fairly by the utilities it regulates. Regardless of where someone was born, people deserve reliable utility service, transparent rates, and equal access to public participation in Commission decisions. When I see injustices that are not under the Corporation Commission's control, I will use my position as an elected official to bring attention to them. Again federal immigration matters fall outside the jurisdiction of the Corporation Commission, but my duty is to safeguard ratepayers and advocate for fair treatment across Arizona. I firmly oppose utilizing local ratepayer funds to subsidize utility infrastructure or service costs for these detention centers. As Commissioner, I will leverage my position as an elected official to champion transparency, fight federal overreach, and ensure regulated utilities treat every community with equity and respect.	It's hard to believe that any Arizonan signed up for ICE detention facilities to be getting placed in their backyard. Just like it's also hard to believe that many Arizonans support the staggering federal overreach and trampling of basic civil and human rights occurring at the hands of ICE agents across this country. The Corporation Commission does not have jurisdiction over decisions like this but you can believe that I will do everything in my power to ensure no resident's dollars will be used to subsidize any of the utility costs incurred by any of these buildings.

QUESTION 5 — EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

"What are your priorities for improving educational outcomes and workforce readiness in Pima County, and how would you collaborate with local school districts, higher education institutions, and employers to achieve them?"

Jonathon Hill

While the Corporation Commission does not determine school funding, its decisions have a direct impact on school budgets through utility rates. School districts in Pima County already face financial challenges, and rising electricity and water costs leave fewer dollars available for teachers, classrooms, and students. As a Corporation Commissioner, I will work to keep utility rates fair, encourage cost-saving energy efficiency programs, and support investments in distributed energy resources that can help schools reduce long-term operating costs. Protecting ratepayers, including schools, is one of the Commission's core responsibilities.

Clara Pratte

Arizona public schools are already underfunded, and rising utility costs make that problem worse. Schools need air conditioning to keep students and educators safe, especially in rural communities. But every dollar a school spends on higher electricity bills is a dollar that cannot go to teachers, classroom materials, school counselors, technology, or student programs. As a Commissioner, education funding is not under my purview. However, I would work to reduce unnecessary rate hikes and support energy solutions that lower long-term costs for public institutions like schools. Additionally, clean energy can do more than lower utility bills; it can also create post-secondary opportunities for students. Arizona should be preparing young people for careers in energy, infrastructure, engineering, construction, technology, and public service. Lower bills and a stronger clean-energy economy both support the future of public education.

STATE SENATOR — LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 17**QUESTION 1 — WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION**

"Arizona faces significant reductions in Colorado River deliveries due to the Central Arizona Project's junior priority status. If elected, how would you approach protecting the state's long-term water supply, and what principles would guide your decisions when weighing the needs of agricultural communities alongside municipal growth under these reduced allocations?"

Edgar Soto

Arizona must treat water security as a prerequisite for responsible growth. My decisions would be guided by sound science, conservation, fairness, transparency, and meaningful participation from agricultural communities, cities, rural residents, and Tribal nations. I would defend Arizona's interests in Colorado River negotiations while investing in water reuse, aquifer recharge, leak reduction, watershed restoration, conservation technology, and responsibly evaluated new supplies. Agriculture should not simply be asked to absorb every reduction. Farmers and

Edgar Soto

ranchers support our food supply, rural economies, and Arizona's heritage. I would pursue voluntary, compensated conservation programs and help producers invest in efficient irrigation and less water-intensive practices. At the same time, new municipal and industrial growth must demonstrate a dependable water supply and help pay for the infrastructure it requires. We need enforceable groundwater protections that reflect local conditions while establishing statewide standards for measurement, reporting, and accountability.

QUESTION 2 — LAND DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH PLANNING

"How do you believe Pima County should balance new residential and commercial development with the preservation of natural landscapes, wildlife corridors, and community character?"

Edgar Soto

Pima County can support responsible growth while protecting the natural environment and character that make our region special. Development should be guided by long-term planning, reliable water availability, appropriate infrastructure, and meaningful community input not by short-term interests alone. I support directing growth toward areas where roads, utilities, schools, and public safety services can accommodate it, while encouraging infill and redevelopment where appropriate. We should protect washes, wildlife corridors, open space, and environmentally sensitive lands through science-based planning and collaboration with property owners, conservation groups, Tribal nations, and local governments. I also believe the state should respect local planning authority rather than impose one-size-fits-all mandates. Clear and predictable standards benefit residents, responsible developers, and businesses. Our goal should be well-planned communities that expand housing and economic opportunity without sacrificing our water security, desert landscape, or Southern Arizona identity.

QUESTION 3 — DATA CENTERS: WATER & ENERGY USE

"What is your position on the development of large-scale data centers in Pima County, given their water consumption, electrical demand, and limited long-term job creation? What conditions or safeguards would you require before approving such projects?"

Edgar Soto

I believe there are a lot better options to bring business and industry here other than Data centers. But if large-scale data centers should be considered only when they provide a clear, measurable benefit to Pima County without shifting their costs onto residents. Before a project moves forward, I would require transparent reporting of projected and actual water use, energy demand, backup-generator emissions, infrastructure needs, and long-term job creation. Data centers should demonstrate a

Edgar Soto

secure and sustainable water supply, use recycled or reclaimed water whenever feasible, and fund the infrastructure their operations require. Residential and small-business ratepayers should not subsidize their extraordinary electrical demand. I support special large-load utility rates and requirements that new demand be matched with additional clean-energy generation and grid capacity. Projects should also include enforceable conservation standards, community input, and accountability if promised jobs or public benefits do not materialize. Economic development is important, but it must strengthen, not strain our water supply, electric grid, taxpayers, and quality of life. The reality is Data Centers do not offer many on going jobs after construction and could become obsolete and we are left with nothing.

QUESTION 4 — ICE DETENTION FACILITIES

"How should Pima County approach proposals for new or expanded ICE detention facilities, considering impacts on nearby neighborhoods, public safety, and community relations?"

Edgar Soto

I personally don't think we need ICE detention Facilities here but if we did. Any proposal for a new or expanded ICE detention facility should undergo rigorous and transparent public review. Pima County must evaluate its impact on nearby neighborhoods, traffic, infrastructure, public safety, water use, emergency services, and community trust. Residents deserve meaningful input before decisions are made. I would require clear evidence of need, full disclosure of public costs, enforceable operating standards, independent oversight, and accountability for the treatment and safety of detainees and employees. County taxpayers and local law enforcement should not be expected to subsidize a federal detention operation or be diverted from protecting our communities. We can enforce immigration laws while honoring constitutional rights, due process, human dignity, and family unity. Any facility operating in Pima County must meet strong health, safety, transparency, and humanitarian standards. If a proposal cannot satisfy those requirements or demonstrate a genuine community benefit, it should not move forward.

QUESTION 5 — EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

"What are your priorities for improving educational outcomes and workforce readiness in Pima County, and how would you collaborate with local school districts, higher education institutions, and employers to achieve them?"

Edgar Soto

During my 30 years at Pima Community College, I have seen how education can change the direction of a person's life while strengthening our entire economy. Community colleges are key economic drivers because they create the skilled

Edgar Soto

workforce that attracts employers, supports business growth, and prepares people for good-paying careers. My priorities include expanding early-childhood education, strengthening K-12 achievement, increasing dual enrollment and career and technical education, and making postsecondary training more affordable and accessible. I would bring school districts, JTED, community colleges, universities, labor organizations, and employers together to align programs with regional workforce needs in healthcare, skilled trades, advanced manufacturing, technology, and other growing industries. I would also support apprenticeships, internships, short-term credentials, and student services that help people complete their education. Success should be measured by credentials earned, jobs secured, wages increased, and whether employers can find the skilled workers they need.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 19

QUESTION 1 — WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

"Arizona faces significant reductions in Colorado River deliveries due to the Central Arizona Project's junior priority status. If elected, how would you approach protecting the state's long-term water supply, and what principles would guide your decisions when weighing the needs of agricultural communities alongside municipal growth under these reduced allocations?"

Jackie Anderson	Aiden "Addie" Swallow
I will support the Democratic caucus water bills that were not heard in committee in the last session (SB1425 / HB 2005) and hopefully support them in next year's legislative session with a Democratic majority. 1. Increase AZDWR authority to review all previous bills/laws for possible amendments to re-align with the current water issues. I feel we need more data and therefore should increase Well(s) tracking through AZDWR for all residential and agricultural communities. 2. Long term research in desalination plants to convert ocean water to potable drinking water 3. Cover the canals with solar panels to mitigate evaporation and add clean energy to the electric grid.	A lot of Active Management Areas already have significant water conservation efforts. In addition, I oppose all legislation that sells Arizona water out of state. Arizona water is for Arizonans.

QUESTION 2 — LAND DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH PLANNING

"How do you believe Pima County should balance new residential and commercial development with the preservation of natural landscapes, wildlife corridors, and community character?"

Jackie Anderson	Aiden "Addie" Swallow
Stay away from Santa Cruz River and major washes; remove old buildings and rebuild within the current community infrastructure (water, electricity and sewer). There are many vacant lots sitting with junk and old cars. Seniors need a rebate program to fix up their houses.	Yes, of course. We should never destroy natural landscapes, wildlife corridors, and community character just for the sake of expansion. When looking at expanding the commercial and residential footprint we need to look at the effects it will have on everything else.

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Jackie Anderson	Aiden "Addie" Swallow
No Data centers - If they absolutely had to be here, 100% solar energy with battery back-up to not affect the local resident's electric bills. Recycle water to cool the servers and batteries; require sound insulation for noise abatement. Hire locally, we want local employees on site. Give back to the communities since the data centers are not contributing to the local economy.	Data Centers are a no-go full stop. Period. The only exception to that is if do not use any draw on the natural resources AND the local communities want them.

QUESTION 4 — ICE DETENTION FACILITIES

"How should Pima County approach proposals for new or expanded ICE detention facilities, considering impacts on nearby neighborhoods, public safety, and community relations?"

Jackie Anderson	Aiden "Addie" Swallow
NO ICE. This is illegal.	ICE facilities should never have been built to begin with. If I had the power, I'd dismantle ICE altogether.

QUESTION 5 — EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

"What are your priorities for improving educational outcomes and workforce readiness in Pima County, and how would you collaborate with local school districts, higher education institutions, and employers to achieve them?"

Jackie Anderson	Aiden "Addie" Swallow
Fund Public Education and regulate the Voucher system. Improve transportation options so students can pursue higher education.	Reign in the ESA Vouchers. Focus on public funding for public schools. No public funding for private schools. Limited funding for charter schools only if the student has special needs that the public school cannot treat.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 23

QUESTION 1 — WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

"Arizona faces significant reductions in Colorado River deliveries due to the Central Arizona Project's junior priority status. If elected, how would you approach protecting the state's long-term water supply, and what principles would guide your decisions when weighing the needs of agricultural communities alongside municipal growth under these reduced allocations?"

Emilia Cortez	Gary Garcia Snyder	Mariana Sandoval
As a farmer's daughter, I understand how important water is to our agricultural communities, our economy, and our families. Arizona needs a long-term strategy that prioritizes conservation, groundwater management, infrastructure improvements, and water reuse. I believe farmers should not carry the burden of water reductions alone while new developments continue without	I would bring together our agricultural communities, farmers, landowners, and key stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan that reflects the needs of our communities. Together, we can present that plan to the federal government while also working locally and statewide to build support and advance legislation that protects agriculture, preserves our landscapes, and creates opportunities for responsible growth. The goal is simple: bring	Arizona is already operating under a Tier 1 Colorado River shortage, with a 512,000 acre-foot reduction to the state's Colorado River supply in 2026. Long-term planning will require conservation, groundwater management, recharge, and continued participation in negotiations over post-2026 Colorado River rules. Tribal communities and Tribal water rights must be centered in these discussions and respected

Emilia Cortez	Gary Garcia Snyder	Mariana Sandoval
responsible planning. I would support investments in water-efficient agricultural technologies while requiring new developments to demonstrate sustainable water use. My guiding principles would be fairness, sustainability, and protecting existing communities. Water is a shared resource, and we must balance economic growth with protecting the resources future generations will depend on.	people together, find common ground, and make sure rural voices are heard at every level of government.	as part of the state's water-priority framework. At the same time, Arizona must recognize the economic importance of agriculture while ensuring reliable municipal supplies and requiring new growth to account for its water demands.

QUESTION 2 — LAND DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH PLANNING

"How do you believe Pima County should balance new residential and commercial development with the preservation of natural landscapes, wildlife corridors, and community character?"

Emilia Cortez	Gary Garcia Snyder	Mariana Sandoval
As a farmer's daughter, I understand how important water is to our agricultural communities, our economy, and our families. Arizona needs a long-term strategy that prioritizes conservation, groundwater management, infrastructure improvements, and water reuse. I believe farmers should not carry the burden of water reductions alone while new developments continue without responsible planning. I would support investments in water-	Growth is undeniable, but growth and preservation can go hand in hand. We can continue building for our communities while protecting the landscapes, wildlife, and natural resources that make them special. By working together, listening to one another, and finding common ground, we can reach agreements that allow our communities to grow without losing what makes them unique.	Pima County's comprehensive plan emphasizes infill, compact development, conservation of open space, and protection of wildlife corridors. New development should make efficient use of existing infrastructure while protecting riparian areas, natural habitat, and the character of established communities. Thoughtful planning can allow responsible growth without sacrificing the landscapes and environmental resources that make Pima County unique.

Emilia Cortez	Gary Garcia Snyder	Mariana Sandoval
efficient agricultural technologies while requiring new developments to demonstrate sustainable water use. My guiding principles would be fairness, sustainability, and protecting existing communities. Water is a shared resource, and we must balance economic growth with protecting the resources future generations will depend on.		

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"What is your position on the development of large-scale data centers in Pima County, given their water consumption, electrical demand, and limited long-term job creation? What conditions or safeguards would you require before approving such projects?"

Emilia Cortez	Gary Garcia Snyder	Mariana Sandoval
I have serious concerns about large-scale data centers because of their water consumption, energy demands, and limited long-term job creation. Before supporting these projects, I would require independent environmental assessments, transparent water and energy projections, enforceable conservation requirements, and meaningful community input. Developers should demonstrate that their projects will not jeopardize residential water supplies, increase utility costs for working families, or place additional strain on	I have clearly stated my position on data centers in the Clean Elections Voter Guide for the General Election. I am opposed to placing data centers within our communities, and I will stand up and fight for our residents, our neighborhoods, and the future of our communities. Growth can happen, but it must be done responsibly—with our people, our communities, agriculture, land, water, and quality of life at the table. I will continue working to make sure our communities have a strong voice in decisions that affect where and how development takes place.	In the past year, data centers received \$38M in state tax exemptions while utilities propose raising rates for everybody to meet their demand for our water and energy resources. By repealing these corporate handouts, my HB 2467 ensures that these tech corporations pay their fair share. And by banning wasteful cooling practices and requiring that they produce their own renewable energy, my bill targets those costly utility rate increases right at the source. While tech corporations and their Republican friends tip the scale for those who need it the least, my focus is on

Emilia Cortez	Gary Garcia Snyder	Mariana Sandoval
existing infrastructure. I would also prioritize renewable energy, recycled water, and agreements requiring developers to pay their fair share of infrastructure costs. Economic development should create lasting benefits for our communities without compromising the resources future generations depend on.		making life affordable for Arizona families. Although Data centers can bring investment and construction jobs, that investment should not come at the expense of our water supply, electric grid, environment, or neighboring communities. Any proposal should provide full transparency about water consumption along with total energy demand, noise control, and the significant electricity required for cooling. Approval of any data center should depend on enforceable environmental protections, meaningful community input, and clear, measurable long-term economic benefits, including quality permanent jobs.

QUESTION 4 — ICE DETENTION FACILITIES

"How should Pima County approach proposals for new or expanded ICE detention facilities, considering impacts on nearby neighborhoods, public safety, and community relations?"

Emilia Cortez	Gary Garcia Snyder	Mariana Sandoval
As someone from a border community, I understand how immigration enforcement affects families, neighborhoods, and trust in public institutions. I would approach proposals for new or expanded ICE detention facilities with serious concern, prioritizing public safety, transparency, and the constitutional rights and	<i>No response submitted.</i>	Any proposal for a new or expanded ICE detention facility should receive rigorous public and governmental scrutiny. In addition to land-use, infrastructure, transportation, and public-safety considerations, there must be humane holding conditions, adequate medical and behavioral health care, clear emergency-response

Emilia Cortez	Gary Garcia Snyder	Mariana Sandoval
dignity of everyone in our communities. Any proposal should undergo public review of its impacts on neighborhoods, emergency services, infrastructure, and community relations. Residents deserve a meaningful voice in decisions affecting their communities. I would also advocate for accountability, humane conditions, access to legal representation, and protections for families impacted by detention. Local communities should not bear the consequences of federal immigration enforcement decisions without transparency and accountability.		protocols, and enforceable standards for detainee treatment. Contracts should include meaningful oversight, transparency, independent inspection, and accountability mechanisms, potentially including community or independent oversight boards. Nearby residents should have meaningful opportunities for public input before decisions are made.

QUESTION 5 — EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

"What are your priorities for improving educational outcomes and workforce readiness in Pima County, and how would you collaborate with local school districts, higher education institutions, and employers to achieve them?"

Emilia Cortez	Gary Garcia Snyder	Mariana Sandoval
I believe every student deserves a pathway to success, whether through college, skilled trades, or career training. My priorities include strengthening public school funding, supporting teachers, expanding career and technical education, and making higher education more affordable and accessible. I would work with local	The urgency is here. Our education system needs a boost. Our educators deserve better pay, and our students deserve greater opportunities—including expanded STEM programs and pathways to future careers. If elected, I am proposing my first bill: the Educator Tax-Free Act, designed to allow educators to automatically keep their state tax	A strong workforce strategy should connect K-12 schools, Pima Community College, the University of Arizona, and local employers around career pathways, dual enrollment, apprenticeships, internships, and short-term technical training. Pima County can build on existing partnerships in health care, IT, skilled

Emilia Cortez	Gary Garcia Snyder	Mariana Sandoval
school districts, Pima Community College, the University of Arizona, Pima JTED, and employers to expand internships, apprenticeships, workforce certifications, and training programs connected to Southern Arizona's economic needs. I would also prioritize support for rural and first-generation students who face financial and transportation barriers. Investing in education means investing in our economy, our workforce, and the future of our communities.	exemption in their paychecks and put more of their hard-earned money directly into their bank accounts. But legislation starts with listening. I want to hear from our educators, administrators, maintenance staff, and students. Everyone who plays a role in our schools deserves a voice. We may not have all the answers, and we are not perfect. But when we come together, listen to one another, and work toward real solutions, we can begin moving the needle toward greater educational excellence. Education success starts with all of us.	trades, transportation, and business while ensuring training reflects actual regional workforce needs. Childcare should also be treated as workforce infrastructure: access to affordable early childhood care is a major barrier to participation in education and workforce training. Partnerships among employers, academic institutions, and childcare providers, including employer-sponsored childcare, could help more parents participate in training and enter or advance in the workforce.