

Responses cannot be edited

## 2020 Candidate Survey (due June 30)

Dear Candidate:

The Secular Coalition for Arizona is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit advocacy organization that works to ensure a secular state government. We lobby on behalf of all individuals who believe that public policy free of religious preference is the best way to ensure freedom of conscience for Arizonans of all faiths and of none.

We also represent the Arizona nontheistic community – a vibrant and growing community of Arizonans who self-identify as atheists, agnostics, humanists, freethinkers, and other labels of personal choosing – to elected officials and government bodies in and from Arizona. We mediate the relationship between the nontheistic community and elected officials.

Secular Coalition for Arizona is operated by a board of directors and executive staff, and receives policy influence and comment from diverse liaised secular groups throughout Arizona.

Although we have been asked many times by our supporters to do so, Secular Coalition for Arizona does not endorse candidates. Instead, we offer you the opportunity to provide your position on issues important to our constituency. We will present your answers on our website exactly as you submit it to us as part of the Secular Coalition for Arizona Candidate Guide.

Instructions: Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements. Please make comments if you would like to clarify your statement. Your answers will be published exactly as you return it to us. Questions? Contact Tory Roberg, Director of Government Affairs, [tory@secularaz.org](mailto:tory@secularaz.org)

\* Required

Email address \*

doug@ErvinForAZ.com

Candidate Name: \*

Doug Ervin

Candidate Website:

ErvinForAZ.com

House or Senate

Senate ▼

Legislative District: \*

20 ▼

“Public tax dollars should not be used to fund private religious education, either directly through tax credit scholarships (STOs) or indirectly through vouchers (Empowerment Scholarship Accounts).” Indicate your level of agreement with this statement: \*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree            Strongly Agree

Comments:

I completely agree and until we can eliminate the STO credit, I will work to have the funds reallocated from private school tuition to instead be used for quality pre-K education, after-the-bell programs and summer learning opportunities for all students.

“When it comes to government policy, health care decisions must be made in a religiously-neutral way based on science and evidence. When it comes to a woman’s health care decisions, the only beliefs that matter are hers. Lawmakers should not use their personal religious beliefs to dictate women’s access to reproductive health care.” Indicate your level of agreement with this statement: \*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree            Strongly Agree

Comments:

.....

“A terminally ill, mentally capable person with a prognosis of six months or less to live should have the option to request from their doctor a prescription for medication which they can choose to self-ingest to die peacefully.” Indicate your level of agreement with this statement: \*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree           Strongly Agree





Comments:

.....

“Public employees deserve a workplace free from religious proselytizing and pressure by the Governor, agency heads, municipal or county leaders, or other persons in authority in public spheres.” Indicate your level of agreement with this statement: \*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

Comments:

.....

“So-called ‘conversion therapy’ is a pseudoscientific practice attempting to ‘convert’ LGBT individuals to become heterosexual. Practicing this on LGBT youth should be banned in Arizona.” Indicate your level of agreement with this statement: \*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

Comments:

.....

“Religion is never an excuse to harm a child or allow harm to a child. Religious loopholes for medical neglect, physical abuse, and reporting requirements must be repealed.” Indicate your level of agreement with this statement: \*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree



Comments:

.....

“As a diverse and secular state, it is improper and unconstitutional for the government to direct taxpayer money to programs and institutions that discriminate on the basis of religion.” Indicate your level of agreement with this statement: \*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

Comments:

.....

“Solutions to the world’s greatest challenges must be guided by science and evidence. Lawmakers have a responsibility to recognize and act upon the scientific consensus behind climate change.” Indicate your level of agreement with this statement: \*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

Comments:

.....

“When a citizen convicted of a drug crime is sentenced to mandatory rehabilitation, the government must provide access to options that are evidenced-based and free from religion.” Indicate your level of agreement with this statement: \*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

Comments:

I do not think any person should be mandated to attend religious-related counseling, however, a spiritual option could be allowed as that could help some people during the rehabilitation process.

“Studying the Old and New Testaments of the Bible under the guise as literature and world history has no place in public school curriculum. The Bible can be discussed as part of a discussion on religions of the world and other religions are given equal time in the classroom.” Indicate your level of agreement with this statement: \*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree            Strongly Agree

Comments:

My concern here is the equal time stipulation as there are many world religions and requiring equal time for all would be difficult. I do think learning religious topics helps students better understand history, art, and acceptance of others, but this should not be used as a justification to infuse biblical teachings in publicly funded education.

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0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree            Strongly Agree

Comments:

Note: This appears to be a duplicate of the previous question.  
My concern here is the equal time stipulation as there are many world religions and requiring equal time for all would be difficult. I do think learning religious topics helps students better understand history, art, and acceptance of others, but this should not be used as a justification to infuse biblical teachings in publicly funded education.

Submitted 6/29/20, 8:46 AM