

Arizona Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2010

Candidate Jack Kretzer

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Animals play an important role in the lives of many Arizonans, who consistently demonstrate concern for animal protection. Humane-minded citizens of all political stripes care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues. Humane Voters of Arizona (HVA) appreciates your input on this 2010 State Candidate Questionnaire. HVA will be endorsing candidates for the upcoming primary and general elections based upon voting records and response to this questionnaire. HVA may also share questionnaire responses with other organizations that track and make endorsements.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues?

Yes _____

No _____

Comments _____

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

Yes No Comments During my life I have had many dogs and cats as pets. Currently, I have a severe sensitivity to the dander on animal fur which can result in breathing problems.

Do you financially or philosophically support any local or national animal protection organizations? If so, which ones?

Yes

No

Comments

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

ANIMAL ABUSE LAWS

The link between cruelty to animals and violence toward humans is well documented. People who have committed acts of violence on animals are more likely to act out violently towards people in a number of scenarios and psychological profiles. Communities have good reason to be concerned about the whereabouts of animal abusers. An Animal Abuser Registry could prevent acts of violence against animals and people. It could also save thousands of tax-payer dollars by tracking repeat hoarding offenders who move from community to community, often violating terms of probation and plea agreements.

Would you support legislation that requires animal abusers to register in their communities, if it could be funded without general fund or tax-payer dollars?

Yes No

Comments Currently, the state of Arizona has no funds to support new programs.

ANIMAL CONTROL

HOMELESS ANIMALS

Every year, tens of thousands of cats and dogs are killed in shelters throughout Arizona. Taxpayers bear the cost of picking up, housing, and ultimately euthanizing these homeless or unwanted animals. The pet overpopulation crisis is the direct result of irresponsible breeding and animals left unaltered in our communities.

Would you be willing to work with animal control agencies and/or shelters in your district to address problems related to the homeless animal crisis?

Yes No

Comments Animal; control should be a function of county government.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

ARIZONA GAME & FISH COMMISSION

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission (AZGFC) is charged with managing and protecting Arizona’s wildlife. It has five members who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Arizona Senate. Each serves a five-year term, no two may be from the same county and only three may be members of the same political party. Each candidate must be well-informed on the subject of wildlife.

For decades, Arizona has had an appointment process through which applicants would apply directly to the governor’s office. However, last session the legislature passed SB 1200, a measure that creates a recommendation board controlled by

ranchers and clubs who represent less than 1% of Arizona hunters and anglers to appoint candidates to the AZGFC. The governor would be required to select only board-endorsed candidates.

SB 1200 was opposed by the AZGFC and many diverse hunting, conservation, and animal protection organizations.

Do you support a process that includes less than 1% of hunters & anglers and limits the voice of a majority of Arizonans to control of the Arizona Game & Fish Commission appointment process?

Yes___ No__X__

Comments I viewed firsthand the appointment screening process for appellate judges; it does not work.

I would support expanding the Commission to have a member from each county with a requirement of no more than five members from any political party with ballot access at the time of appointment.

Do you believe that SB 1200 should be repealed?

Yes__X__ No__X__

Comments I believe that the current system needs to be revised.

Constitutional Right to Hunt Amendment

The legislature referred a measure to the November ballot which, if passed by voters, will place the right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife in the Declaration of Rights of the Arizona Constitution. Proposition 109 declares "hunting, fishing and the harvesting of wildlife" as the preferred means of managing wildlife

This proposed amendment to our Constitution would make hunting a fundamental right, equal to existing rights of free speech, the right to vote, the right to bear arms and other core rights. Proposition 109 declares hunting and fishing to be a "preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife." That means the right to hunt could trump the use of sound science to develop wildlife management policies., and could limit the use of other management tools and important, innovative programs that do not involve hunting.

Do you support Proposition 109?

Yes _____

No X

Comments _____

CITIZENS' VOTING RIGHTS

Arizona's public initiative process is a constitutional right which was enacted at statehood in 1912. The first initiative was for women's suffrage, and it passed by a margin of greater than two to one that same year.

Arguably the most important tool for protecting Arizona's animals is the public initiative process. Thanks to grassroots citizens' ballot measures, cruel leg-hold traps were banned on public lands in 1994 and cockfighting was outlawed in 1998. In 2006, voters overwhelmingly approved an initiative that banned the cruel confinement of pregnant pigs and calves raised for veal.

In 2000 voters rejected a proposal that would have required a 2/3 majority to pass any initiative affecting wildlife. And in a landslide election in 2008, voters defeated a measure that would have deprived the majority of voters participating in an election of the right to decide ballot initiatives, virtually eliminating the citizen initiative process.

Do you support Arizona's public initiative process?

Yes No

Comments The founding fathers of the state of Arizona recognize the greed of the human soul.

Do you believe that the Legislature should NOT attempt to dismantle the constitutional voting rights of Arizona citizens?

Yes No

Comments I support the concept espoused by former Supreme Court Justice O'Connor to double the number of legislative districts with one representative for each of the 60 districts.

I would take this revision in representation a step further by reducing the Senate to 15 members with one representing each of the 15 Arizona counties.

GREYHOUND RACING

Over the past two sessions greyhound racetrack lobbyists have been attempting to gain support for a proposal to allow slot machines at racetracks (racinos).

In 2002, Arizona voters defeated a referendum to allow slots at dog tracks by an 80% - 20% margin. That fact hasn't deterred track lobbyists, who are promising legislators high revenue returns to appease the budget deficit. However, the tracks' revenue numbers have not been verified and a preliminary review by the Arizona Joint Legislative Budget Committee called their projections "highly unlikely." Moreover racinos would jeopardize tribal gaming, which has contributed over \$500 million to Arizona since 2004. In contrast, dog tracks have paid no pari-mutuel taxes since being granted large tax breaks in 1995.

Aside from the economic argument, state law would require racinos to include live racing, which would perpetuate the needless over-breeding of racing animals. Despite rescue efforts, thousands of greyhounds are still being killed each year on a nationwide basis, further contributing to Arizona's and America's homeless dog

Do you support legislation granting slot machines to Arizona dog tracks?

Yes ___ No X

Comments Gambling serves no benefit to the quality of life of Arizonians. _____

Thank you for your time. Please return the completed questionnaire to:

Humane Voters of Arizona

Email to: HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net