



ARIZONA FEDERATION *for Children*

From: Kim Martinez
To: Interested Parties
Re: Educational choice election night memo
Date: Nov. 5, 2014

The American Federation for Children (AFC), the nation's voice for educational choice, celebrated the results of Arizona's general election after 6 out of 6 AFC preferred candidates were victorious. Throughout the general election and primary, the American Federation for Children spent an estimated \$300,000 to support 17 candidates, winning 16 of those races.

Despite attacks by the Arizona Education Association and affiliated allies, voters throughout Arizona selected candidates from both parties who embrace educational choice.

We are pleased with the choices made by the voters who selected these fine leaders this election. We anxiously await their ability to strengthen Arizona's already innovative educational choice programs and offer more parents with quality options for their child's education.

Below is an overview of races where educational choice supporters prevailed. The American Federation for Children was only involved in legislative races through independent expenditures.

Governor's Race Overview

Doug Ducey made it clear throughout his campaign and again in [last night's speech that he wants every child to have the opportunity to attend a quality school and will work to increasingly make options available](#). Ducey highlighted the fact that there are long waiting lists at many of the highest achieving charter schools and waiting lists for School Tuition Organization scholarships. Ducey promises to immediately seek to eliminate those waiting lists. Conversely, Fred DuVal has been criticized for his education platform that consisted mostly of a blank check for the public education establishment. [Candidate DuVal was also known for providing some verbal gaffe in public debate and forum](#). Doug Ducey clearly ran a more disciplined campaign that resonated with voters, especially parents who support educational choice.

Legislative Race Details

Legislative District 6 – Sylvia Allen defeats Tom O'Halleran

Voters denied Tom O'Halleran's attempt to return to the state legislature. O'Halleran consistently voted against school choice legislation while he was in office – and his opposition to educational choice allowed the education reform community to come together and defeat him in 2008.

Legislative District 6 – Brenda Barton and Bob Thorpe successfully defend their house seats

Brenda Barton and Bob Thorpe were targeted by an anti-school choice candidate with a single-shot strategy in this race where the top two vote getters carried the day. Both Barton and Thorpe prevailed with AFC's help.

Legislative District 18 – Jeff Dial ascends to the senate

Dial, a member of the House of Representatives, took a firm stance for Arizona children this past legislative session. In the waning days of session, a group of Dial's colleagues turned their backs on school choice by voting against expanding the Empowerment Scholarship Account program. Dial stood firm and defended Arizona families wanting educational options.

Legislative District 18 – Jill Norgaard wins the house seat

Norgaard attended the 2014 AFC Campaign Training School, impressing those around her with her commitment to educational choice. Norgaard believes parents deserve quality educational options and is expected to offer fresh leadership in the Arizona House of Representatives.

Legislative District 27 –Reginald Bolding wins the house seat

Democrat Reginald Bolding will enter the legislature as a freshman from South Phoenix and as a leader interested in advancing educational choice options for his constituents. This is a big victory for families of LD27 which has multiple low-performing schools and is in dire need of high-quality options.