

Arizona NORML and Southern Arizona NORML are proud to present our 2020 General Election Candidate Guide. We'd like to thank the following volunteers for their efforts in following up with candidates and doing research: Jon Udell, Todd Gilchrist, Edwin Halstead, Bill Carroll and Jon Banks. For this guide, we sent three emails over a period a 10 days to each candidate asking them to complete a candidate survey. The survey consisted of seven statements that we asked each candidate to respond to on a scale of strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree and strongly agree. Here are those statements:

- 1) I am familiar with the science supporting the medical benefits of marijuana.
- 2) I support eliminating the Federal prohibition of marijuana.
- 3) I support the medical marijuana program in Arizona.
- 4) I support the legalization of marijuana for adult-use in Arizona.
- 5) I believe that children should NEVER be removed from their parent based solely on the parent's choice to consume marijuana.
- 6) If elected, I will work to reduce the severity of criminal penalties Arizonans currently face for all non-violent marijuana/cannabis offenses including small cultivation and sales.
- 7) I support the expungement of records of those convicted of marijuana possession or use.

We also allowed for the candidates to provide additional comments if they so desired. We used the candidate responses to grade each candidate who did respond along with any additional information that we could find. After sending three emails, we had our volunteers follow up with the candidates by phone and further emails. If a candidate did not respond, our volunteers would research them for any and all information regarding marijuana through public statements, newspaper and on-line articles, voting records, sponsored or co-sponsored bills, responses to other candidate surveys and interviews. We did our best to accurately grade each candidate based on our survey and other information. Unfortunately, there are some candidates that we simply don't have enough information on to grade. Those candidates received I's for incomplete. All other candidates received a letter grade relative to their positions on cannabis. That grade is shown beside their name in the guide.

If the candidate has a campaign website or official website, we included that as a link with their name. In the guide, (R) means Republican, (D) means Democrat and (IND) means Independent. We were unable to include write-in candidates for this guide.

We hope that that this guide assists you in voting for cannabis-friendly candidates who will help in moving cannabis reform forward!

Enjoy!

## United States Senate

### **(R) Martha McSally: D**

[McSally](#) is a retired Air Force veteran who first ran unsuccessfully for Congress District 2 in 2012. She returned in 2014 to win the Congressional seat in District 2 and maintained that seat through 2018. In 2018, she lost in a US Senate bid to Senator Sinema. McSally was then appointed in late 2018 by Doug Ducey to replace Senator John Kyl. She is seeking to maintain that Senate seat in a special election this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact McSally, she did not respond to our survey. While McSally refused to meet with an Arizona NORML delegation in July of 2018, her office did meet with Arizona NORML representatives during NORML's national lobby day in September of 2019.

Here's where McSally stands relative to cannabis issues (courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has not supported cannabis businesses to use banks
- Has supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has not supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting medical cannabis patients and providers in states where it is legal. (2015)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting cannabis users and businesses in states where recreational cannabis is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of allowing VA doctors to recommend cannabis for veterans in states where it is legal. (2015)
- Voted against preventing states from penalizing banks for providing services to legitimate cannabis businesses. (2014)

A member of Southern Arizona NORML's board of directors and a disabled veteran was invited to two different phone town halls with McSally. Despite asking if McSally would support Veterans Equal Access and how being a medical marijuana patient would affect Second Amendment rights, McSally's staffers never answered either question.

### **(D) Mark Kelly: I**

[Kelly](#) has flown combat missions and has been selected by NASA as an astronaut where he flew four missions. Kelly is running in the 2020 special election for the United States Senate. Kelly's deputy campaign manager responded to our email with the survey and stated that the campaign will not be doing any more surveys this year. Unfortunately, our research yielded nothing relative to Kelly and cannabis-related issues. As much as we hate not to grade Kelly given this important race, we simply do not have enough information to responsibly do so.

## United States Representative in Congress District 1

### (R) Tiffany Shedd: C-

[Shedd](#) ran unsuccessfully for this seat in 2018 and has made it to the general election this year to challenge incumbent Tom O'Halleran. Unfortunately, Shedd did not respond to our survey despite numerous attempts via phone and email to reach her. Shedd did respond to a 2018 Vote Smart Survey where she stated that she does not support the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes. She also remarked that the issue is reserved for the states to decide. Oddly, Shedd does seem to support hemp. Here's what an article updated on September 10, 2020 in the Tri-Valley Dispatch had to say: "Tiffany Shedd, a farmer and attorney in Arizona City, is among those excited about the potential benefits hemp could bring to farmers, especially during a period of economic uncertainty in the agricultural industry. Shedd ran for the Congressional District 1 seat in the 2018 election but was defeated in the Republican primary. "I think it's a great idea," she said. "We've got some really smart people going forward with it. I think it will be a widespread crop here. I'm absolutely open to growing it.""

### (D) Tom O'Halleran: C+

[O'Halleran](#) was an Arizona State Representative from 2001-2007. After that, he was an Arizona Senator from 2007 to 2009. In 2016, O'Halleran won the Congressional seat in District 1 and has held that seat until today. He is seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Despite attempts to reach him, O'Halleran did not respond to our survey. His office did meet with the Arizona NORML delegation in 2019 during NORML's national lobby day in September of 2019. O'Halleran has typically avoid the cannabis conversation so we'll use outside information to examine his stances (courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has supported allowing cannabis businesses to use banks
- Has not supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has not supported ending prohibition at the federal level
- Voted in favor of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level (2019)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting cannabis users and businesses in states where recreational cannabis is legal (2019)

## United States Representative in Congress District 2

### (R) Brandon Martin: C-

[Martin](#) unsuccessfully ran for this Congressional seat in 2018 and is back for another run at the seat in District 2 this year. Our volunteer spoke to Martin on the phone and was told that Martin would not be taking our survey. Martin did state that he did not think cannabis should be schedule 1 federally. Martin is quoted in ISideWith that he only supports the legalization of medical marijuana. Martin was neutral about marijuana legalization in the ivoterguide.

### (D) Anne Kirkpatrick: A

[Kirkpatrick](#) first served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2005-2007. She was elected to Congress in 2008 in District 1 but was defeated for the same position in 2010. She returned in 2012 and 2014 to serve in District 1 again. Kirkpatrick then ran for US Senate in 2016 but was defeated. She came back in 2018 to win Congressional District 2 and is up for reelection for that seat this year. Despite attempts to contact her, Kirkpatrick did not respond to our survey. Here's a summary of where Kirkpatrick stands (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Co-sponsored the MORE Act, which would end the prohibition of cannabis at the federal level, expunge low-level cannabis convictions and levy a 5% tax on cannabis sales to fund grants for communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. (2020)
- Voted in favor of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the SAFE Banking Act of 2019. (2019)
- Said she does not support the legalization of marijuana. (2018)
- Quote: "I think it's critical that Arizona voters have the right to decide for themselves about marijuana legalization, just as they did when they passed Prop 203 in 2010, which legalized medical marijuana in our state...As a former prosecutor, I have seen firsthand the need for tough policies to ensure marijuana stays out of the hands of children and that we crack down on use while driving." (2016)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting medical marijuana patients and providers in states where it is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of allowing VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana for veterans in states where it is legal. (2016)

## United States Representative in Congress District 3

### (R) Daniel Wood: C-

[Wood](#) is a newcomer this year running for District 3 in the US Congress. Wood responded to our survey with neutral statements relative to his understanding of the science behind medical marijuana, having children removed from a parent due to marijuana use, working to mitigate harsh sentencing for non-violent marijuana offenses and the expungement of charges for marijuana possession. Wood did state his support of the medical marijuana program but was strongly opposed to the elimination of federal prohibition and the legalization of adult-use in Arizona. Lastly, we were provided with this statement: “Daniel supports regulated medical marijuana access under state law.” Given his neutrality on many of our statements and his support of the medical marijuana program, we’ll curve Wood’s grade.

### (D) Raul Grijalva: A+

[Grijalva](#) first served on the Tucson Unified School District’s Governing Board from 1974 to 1986. He then served as a Pima County Supervisor from 1989 to 2002. Grijalva first won his Congressional seat in what was then District 7 in 2002. Grijalva has served in that capacity until today (the district eventually became District 3). He is seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Grijalva has been a phenomenal advocate relative to cannabis reform for many years. We’ll let his record speak for itself (Courtesy of Head Count’s Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Co-sponsored the MORE Act, which would end the prohibition of cannabis at the federal level, expunge low-level cannabis convictions and levy a 5% tax on cannabis sales to fund grants for communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. (2020)
- Voted in favor of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the Marijuana Justice Act of 2019, which would end cannabis prohibition at the federal level, expunge federal cannabis convictions, reinvest in the communities that have been most harmed by cannabis prohibition, and penalize states that continue to disproportionately arrest people of color and low-income individuals for cannabis-related crimes. (2019)

- Co-sponsored the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2017, which would end cannabis prohibition at the federal level. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the CARERS Act of 2017 which would prevent the federal government from interfering with state medical marijuana policy, end the federal prohibition of CBD and allow VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana for veterans in states where it is legal. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which would allow banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the SAFE Act of 2017, which would allow banks to provide services to legitimate cannabis businesses. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the Veterans Equal Access Act, which would allow VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis for veterans in states where it is legal. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the CARERS Act of 2017, which would prevent the federal government from interfering with state medical cannabis policy and end the federal prohibition of CBD. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the Veterans Equal Access Act, which would allow VA doctors to recommend cannabis for veterans in states where it is legal. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the Charlotte's Web Medical Access Act of 2017, which would end the federal prohibition of CBD. (2017)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting medical marijuana patients and providers in states where it is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis for veterans in states where it is legal. (2016)
- Voted in favor of preventing states from penalizing banks for providing financial services to legitimate cannabis businesses. (2014)
- Endorsed the legalization of cannabis in Arizona.

Perhaps, we should take a moment to reflect on Grijalva's body of work relative to cannabis reform!

## United States Representative in Congress District 4

### (R) Paul Gosar: F

[Gosar](#) was first elected to a seat in Congress in District 1 in 2010. Following redistricting, Gosar was then elected to a seat in District 4 in 2012 and has maintained that seat until today. He is seeking reelection in Congress for District 4 this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Gosar did not respond to our survey. We'll let Gosar's record speak for itself (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has not supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has not supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has not supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Voted against the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level (2019)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting medical marijuana patients and providers in states where it is legal. (2015)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2015)
- Voted against allowing VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana for veterans in states where it is legal. (2016)
- Voted against preventing states from penalizing banks for providing financial services to legitimate cannabis businesses. (2014)

**(D) Delina DiSanto: A**

After a primary defeat in Congressional District 4 in 2018, [DiSanto](#) is back for another run at incumbent Paul Gosar. DiSanto was quick to respond to our survey and provided us with an impressive straight fives response to our seven statements. If that isn't enough to indicate clear support for cannabis, we'll let DiSanto tell you about her positions on criminal justice and marijuana (taken from her campaign website):

On criminal justice reform: “Over the last 40 years, the incarceration rate in our country has more than quadrupled and is now unprecedented. The failed War on Drugs has punished communities of color. We need to root out racial discrimination in the system and have humane standards for prisoners. We can no longer tolerate incarceration for children and teen abuses of minor offenses or school related offenses. We need to address that time spent in jail/prison means they paid their debt to society. They deserve rehabilitation and not further punishment. Furthermore, they should not have to pay fees to be able to vote.”

On marijuana: “First things first - we must decriminalize marijuana at the federal level. The failed War on Drugs policy unfairly targets minorities, imprisons non-violent offenders, and increases unemployment. I would vote "yes" to legalize recreational marijuana in my state; it would benefit Arizona's schools and infrastructure. I will fight for states to be able to opt to legalize recreational marijuana. Medicinal marijuana should be legal across the board.”

**United States Representative in Congress District 5**

**(R) Andy Biggs: F**

[Biggs](#) first served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2003 to 2011. He was then elected to the Senate seat in LD22 in 2010. In 2012, he was elected to the Senate seat in LD12 and won that seat again in 2014. In 2016, Biggs won the Congressional seat in District 5 and has maintained that seat until today. He is seeking reelection this year for the same seat. Despite repeated attempts at contact, Biggs did not respond to our survey. We'll let Biggs's record in Congress speak for itself (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has not supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has not supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has not supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Voted against the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level (2019)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)



- During his tenure as President of the Arizona State Senate, Biggs introduced legislation that would have prohibited the state from spending any money from its general fund on medical cannabis research. (2014)

**(D) Joan Greene: A-**

[Greene](#) first ran in Congressional District 5 in 2018 but was defeated by Congressman Biggs. She's back again in 2020 to challenge the Congressman. Despite repeated phone messages and emails, Greene did not respond to our survey. We did an extensive search on Greene but couldn't find much of anything on her regarding issues related to cannabis. In a 2018 Vote Smart publication, Greene responded yes to this question: Do you support the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes? We'll give her the benefit of the doubt that her position hasn't changed in 2020.

**United States Representative in Congress District 6**

**(R) David Schweikert: A**

[Schweikert](#) first served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 1991 to 1995. He was then elected to the Congressional seat in District 6 in 2010 and has served in that same capacity until today. Schweikert is seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Despite attempts to contact him, Schweikert did not respond to our survey. Here's Schweikert's record on cannabis in Congress (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has not supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Voted in favor of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting medical marijuana patients and providers in states where it is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2015)
- Voted against allowing VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana for veterans in states where it is legal. (2016)
- Voted against preventing states from penalizing banks for providing financial services to legitimate cannabis businesses. (2014)

## **(D) Hiral Tipirneni: C-**

[Tipirneni](#) first ran for Congress in District 8 in 2018 and lost to Congresswoman Lesko in the general election. She's returning this year to challenge for the Congressional seat in District 6 against incumbent David Schweikert. Sadly, we were unable to get Tipirneni to respond to our survey despite repeated contact. We struggled to find anything on Tipirneni with our research. To grade her, we'll rely on Arizona NORML's assessment of her in 2018: "Despite being a doctor who could provide immense credibility for medical marijuana through her support, Tipirneni not only avoids the topic but even lumped marijuana into her calls for beefing up the drug war along the border."

## **United States Representative in Congress District 7**

### **(R) Josh Barnett: B**

[Barnett](#) is a business owner who is running for the first time for the Congressional seat in District 7. Barnett was unable to respond to our survey but our research was able to find quotes and statements attributable to Barnett relative to marijuana. Here are those quotes and statements:

- "I've read many studies on this and, yes, medical marijuana is a much safer alternative to most opioids, etc."
- "I find it funny how people pick & choose what's healthy according to their views. The alcoholic telling the fit, healthy person they shouldn't drink diet soda because of the aspartame. The cigarette smoker tells the marijuana smoker it's bad for them. People will justify anything"
- Criticized Kamala Harris for throwing "thousand[s] of black men in jail for marijuana"
- "I support medical marijuana..."
- "I have never condoned the use of rec marijuana outside of Medical use. Cigarettes, fast food and alcohol kill more"
- The "major problem I have with" legalization is an increasing number of stoned drivers, "Along with the high potency stuff like 'shatter'"

Lastly, Barnett was neutral in the ivoterguide relative to his support for the legalization of recreational marijuana. Despite that, Barnett seems to have some legitimate ideas about medical marijuana that we will work for us!

### **(D) Ruben Gallego: A+**

[Gallego](#) was first elected to a seat in the Arizona House in LD27 in 2010 and won that seat again in 2012. In 2014, he was elected to a Congressional seat in District 7 and has held that seat until today. Gallego is seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Gallego was the first legislator in the state House to introduce legislation for full legalization of adult use in Arizona and has been a long-time advocate for cannabis reform. Here's his record in Congress (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project):

- Has supported allowing cannabis business to use banks

- Has supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Co-sponsored the MORE Act, which would end the prohibition of cannabis at the federal level, expunge low-level cannabis convictions and levy a 5% tax on cannabis sales to fund grants for communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. (2020)
- Voted in favor of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2019, which would end the prohibition of cannabis at the federal level. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act, which would legalize and regulate cannabis at the federal level. (2018)
- Co-sponsored the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which would allow banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the SAFE Act of 2017, which would allow banks to provide services to legitimate cannabis businesses. (2017)
- Co-sponsored the Veterans Equal Access Act, which would allow VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis for veterans in states where it is legal. (2018)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting medical marijuana patients and providers in states where it is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2015)
- Voted in favor of allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis for veterans in states where it is legal. (2016)

## **United States Representative in Congress District 8**

### **(D) Michael Muscato: D**

[Muscato](#) ran unsuccessfully in 2016 for the Senate seat in LD22. He returns this year for a shot at District 8 in Congress by challenging Congresswoman Lesko. Muscato did not respond to our survey despite attempts to contact him by phone and email. In 2016, Muscato responded to a question in an Arizona Trucking Association survey stating that he did not support Prop 205 (the ballot initiative to legalize) and further exclaimed that he does not support the legalization of recreational marijuana. Without further information from Muscato, we're forced to grade him solely on his opposition to legalization.

**(R) Debbie Lesko: F**

[Lesko](#) first won an Arizona House seat in LD9 in 2008 and won the seat again in 2010. In 2012, she won the House seat in LD21. In 2014, Lesko won the Senate seat in LD21 and won it again in 2016. Lesko then won a special election to serve in Congress in District 8 and then won the general election in 2018 to continue serving in the same seat. She returns this year seeking reelection for the same seat. Despite repeated attempts to contact her, Lesko did not respond to our survey. Here's her less than stellar record in Congress (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has not supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has not supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has not supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has not supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Voted against advancing the MORE Act, which would end the prohibition of cannabis at the federal level, expunge low-level cannabis convictions and levy a 5% tax on cannabis sales to fund grants for communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. (2019)
- Voted against the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level (2019)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)
- When activists turned in enough petition signatures to put a cannabis legalization initiative on the Arizona ballot, Lesko tweeted: "Bad news for Arizona. This will only lead to more drug abuse and problems." (2016)
- Declared her opposition to legalizing recreational cannabis in an op-ed piece. (2016)

**United States Representative in Congress District 9**

**(R) Dave Giles: B+**

[Giles](#) returns for a third shot at the Congressional seat in District 9 having been defeated for the seat in 2016 and 2018. Despite repeated attempts to contact Giles, he did not respond to our survey. We found some contradictions in our research relative to Giles. In an ivoterguide survey statement, Giles strongly disagreed with marijuana being legalized and regulated like tobacco and alcohol. However, in an ISideWith profile, Giles stated that he supported the legalization of marijuana and said that we should tax and regulate marijuana instead of criminalizing it. Lastly, we were able to find an Arizona Metro Facebook interview with Giles where the topic of marijuana was broached.

In this interview, Giles stated that medical marijuana is a given. "We got that," said Giles. He continued by stating that people who need medical marijuana can get it. When asked about

legalizing recreational marijuana, Giles said that we don't want to end up like what's going on in Colorado but didn't elaborate. Giles then said that as a businessman, it would be good not having to pay police to chase down people for marijuana and not having our jails with a lot of marijuana users and dealers. Giles said that this could save us money. Giles was cautious in stating that we need something secure with legalization so that marijuana doesn't get in the wrong hands. Lastly, Giles said that legalization would drop the cartels out.

We'll consider the ivoterguide statement as an outlier and go with Giles other statement and the preceding interview to grade him.

**(D) Greg Stanton: B+**

[Stanton](#) served on the Phoenix City Council from 2000 to 2009. He then served as the Mayor of Phoenix from 2012 to 2018. He then won the Congressional seat in District 9 in 2018 and is seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Stanton did meet with the Arizona NORML delegation during NORML's national lobby day in September of 2019. Here's his record in Congress relative to cannabis reform (Courtesy of Head Count's Cannabis Voter Project 2020):

- Has supported allowing cannabis business to use banks
- Has supported allowing VA doctors to recommend medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize medical cannabis
- Has supported allowing states to legalize recreational cannabis
- Has supported ending cannabis prohibition at the federal level
- Voted in favor of advancing the MORE Act, which would end the prohibition of cannabis at the federal level, expunge low-level cannabis convictions and levy a 5% tax on cannabis sales to fund grants for communities that have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. (2019)
- Voted in favor of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 which allows banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)
- Voted against preventing the Justice Department from prosecuting users and businesses in states where recreational marijuana is legal. (2019)
- Co-sponsored the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, which would allow banks to work with cannabis businesses that are legal at the state level. (2019)

## **State House District 01**

### **(R) Judy Burges: C+**

[Burges](#) first served in the Arizona House of Representatives in LD4 from 2005 to 2012. In 2012, Burges won a Senate seat in LD22 and won the seat again in 2014 and 2016. She returns this year with a bid for a House seat in LD1. Burges did not respond to our survey despite numerous attempts to contact her. In 2018, Burges was a co-sponsor for SB1420 which sought to provide testing for medical marijuana. Burges also co-sponsored a bill that established the industrial hemp program. In 2016, Burges penned an op-ed against recreational marijuana. In the ivoterguide, Burges disagreed with a statement about her support for the legalization of recreational marijuana. However, in a Prescott Talks Facebook interview on December 6, 2019, Burges was pressed on whether or not she supported recreational marijuana. Burges stated that if people would like to do that on their own time and spend their money that way, then it is up to them. Pressed again if she supported recreational marijuana, Burges simply stated if people wish to do that. The interviewer reiterated that Burges did support recreational marijuana and Burges did not say anything to contradict the statement. Perhaps, Burges is evolving on the issue. We'll give her credit for that!

### **(R) Quang Nguyen: D**

[Nguyen](#) is running for the first time for a House seat in LD1. He did not respond to our survey despite our repeated attempts to contact him. In the ivoterguide, Nguyen responded to a statement asking if he supported the legalization of recreational marijuana. Nguyen was in strong disagreement with the statement. Given Nguyen's lack of response for clarity in our survey, we'll grade him on his strong opposition to legalization.

**(D) Judy Stahl: A**

[Stahl](#) is a business owner running for first time for a House seat in LD1. She responded to our survey with strong support for the elimination of federal prohibition, the medical marijuana program, the legalization of adult-use in Arizona and the expungement of marijuana possession and use convictions. Stahl also offered support for understanding the science behind medical marijuana, never having children removed from a parent due to cannabis use and working to end harsh penalties for non-violent marijuana offenses. There's a lot to like there with this newcomer.

**State House District 02**

**(R) Deborah McEwen: B+**

[McEwen](#) has spent 32 years in criminal justice. We were excited to see this newcomer respond to our survey indicating strong support. McEwen accompanied her responses with the following statement: "The legal regulation and criminal law statements are too vague to go into in a short statement survey such as this. More in-depth regulatory and criminal law discussion would need to take place for an understandable point of view. I do, however, feel strongly that state legislation is needed on this issue as opposed to a citizen's initiative and am willing to discuss these options." Sadly, the legislature just isn't up to this challenge and failed to get traction with a tax and regulate bill in the last session. However, McEwen's willingness to discuss options and her openness to the issue leaves us optimistic that she can be an ally.

**(D) Andrea Dalessandro: A**

[Dalessandro](#) was a career educator and CPA/tax accountant who served as the representative for LD2 in the House from 2012-2016. She then served in the senate for LD-2 from 2016-2020. She is now running for representative again in LD2. Dalessandro responded to our survey with all 5's indicating her full support of cannabis and cannabis-related issues. Dalessandro has been a long-time advocate and was a co-sponsor of SB1284 in 2019 which sought to assess a civil penalty of \$50 for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana. Dalessandro responded to Arizona NORML's survey in 2018 with the following sentiments: "I am for recreational marijuana" and "very unfamiliar with cannabis personally – strongly opposes federal government policy – strongly supports Arizona's MMJ program – will advocate for reducing Arizona criminal penalties if elected – strongly supports state and federal legalization/decriminalization"

**(D) Daniel Hernandez: A**

[Hernandez](#) first won his House seat in LD2 in 2016 and has held that seat until today. He seeks reelection for that seat in LD2 this year. Hernandez has also served on the Sunnyside Unified School District Governing Board. Despite repeated attempts to reach Hernandez via phone and email, he did not respond to our survey. However, Hernandez has been supportive in the legislature and has also been a prime and co-sponsor on cannabis-related bills. In fact, he led on bills adding Autism Spectrum Disorder to the list of qualifying conditions for the medical marijuana program in 2018 and 2019.

**State House District 03**

**(D) Andrés Cano: A**

[Cano](#) was first elected to the House seat in LD3 in 2018. He is seeking reelection to that seat this year. Cano responded to our survey with strong support across the board for our seven statements. This was not surprising to us given his support in the legislature and willingness to meet with us. As a first time candidate in 2018, Cano was strong in his position then: “I support legalization of medical and recreational marijuana. I believe that legalization will not only bring in additional revenue for our schools-it will also lower rising costs that have contributed to an expensive, discriminatory criminal justice system.”

**(D) Alma Hernandez: B+**

[Hernandez](#) first won her House seat in LD3 in 2018. She is seeking reelection this year for the same seat. We reached out to Hernandez myriad times but never received a response to our survey. Hernandez has been supportive in the legislature and did meet with us during our lobby day earlier this year. On August 16, 2018, this quote appeared in the Tucson Weekly: “Additionally, Hernandez opposes the incarceration of nonviolent drug offenders, especially marijuana users. She said the state is spending money on incarcerating people who smoke weed instead of funding education programs. She also opposes private prisons.”



## State House District 04

### **(R) Joel John: I**

[John](#) is a former teacher and family business owner who is running for a House seat in LD4 for the first time this year. John spoke with us and said he would respond to our survey but never did. Unfortunately, our research yielded nothing relative to John and cannabis-related issues. We simply don't have enough information to grade him.

### **(D) Charlene Fernandez: A**

[Fernandez](#) has a storied history in Arizona politics. She has worked with both Congressman Pastor and Congressman Grijalva and has served on the Governing Board of Yuma Union High School District #13. She first won a House seat in LD4 in 2014 and has held the seat until today. She is running this year for the same seat in LD4. Despite calls and emails, Fernandez did not respond to our survey. Here's what Arizona NORML said about Fernandez in 2018: "Emerging as a legislative voice for the medical cannabis industry, Fernandez has backed several key pieces of legislation." Fernandez continued that trend in 2019 and 2020 by co-sponsoring and supporting various cannabis reform bills.

### **(D) Geraldine Peten: B+**

[Peten](#) has a background in education. She assumed a House seat in 2017 in LD4 and then won the House seat in LD4 in 2018. She is seeking reelection for that same seat this year. Despite attempts to contact her, Peten did not respond to our survey. Peten has co-sponsored cannabis reform bills in each year of her tenure in the legislature. In 2018, she co-sponsored HB2199 (makes medical marijuana cards 2 years with reduced fees) and SB1420 (an early testing bill). In 2019, Peten co-sponsored HB2412 (another attempt at 2 year cards and reduced fees) and HB2435 (reduced fees for cards). Finally, in 2020, Peten co-sponsored HB2838 (allows nurse practitioners and physician assistants to prescribe medical marijuana) and HB2840 (keep tangible medical marijuana cards). We do not know definitively where Peten stands on adult-use legalization but we like what we've seen so far!

## State House District 05

### **(R) Regina Cobb: F**

[Cobb](#) first won a House seat in LD5 in 2014. She has maintained that seat until today and is seeking reelection for the seat this year. Despite phone calls and emails, Cobb did not respond to our survey. In 2019 and 2020, Cobb refused to return myriad calls and emails relative to meeting with Arizona NORML during our annual lobby day at the capitol. In 2018, Arizona NORML reported that Cobb claims to support medical marijuana but has not supported reform in any discernible way. To belie this statement, Cobb was a co-sponsor of the reprehensible HCR2045 this year. Co-sponsoring a bill that attempted to cap the THC level of medical marijuana at 2% does not indicate support of medical marijuana to us. Here's Cobb on legalization as told to the

Today's News-Herald Havasu News.com on July 20, 2018: "I will never support and initiative to legalize marijuana for recreational use in our state. We have continually tried to modify the shortfalls of the medical marijuana initiative and have failed. The writing is on the wall when you look at Colorado. The statistics are staggering with negative outcomes from their legalization."

**(R) Leo Biasiucci: F**

[Biasiucci](#) first ran for a House seat in LD5 as a Green Party candidate in 2016. He returned as a Republican in 2018 and won a House seat in LD5. He is seeking reelection to the same seat in the House in LD5 this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact Biasiucci, he did not respond to our survey. In 2018, Arizona NORML addressed Biasiucci's conversion from Green party to the Republican Party and how it affected his views on cannabis: "A former Green Party candidate, Biasiucci had claimed to support cannabis reform measures in 2016. However, his dramatic party shift current billing as a "Trump Conservative" bring all his positions into question. For example, as of 2018, Biasiucci now professes to CAP that he opposes legalization." Biasiucci told the Today's News-Herald Havasu News.com on October 16, 2019 that he opposes Prop 207. He also demonstrated his lack of support for the medical marijuana program and patients by co-sponsoring the awful HCR2045 which sought a 2% cap on THC in the medical marijuana program earlier this year.

Here's what Biasiucci had to tell the Today's News-Herald Havasu News.com on July 20, 2018 relative to legalization:

"As far as I know, a test does not exist that can determine at what point someone consumed marijuana. This concerns me because let's say someone is involved in a workplace accident or traffic accident. Usually, a drug/alcohol test is administered to determine if the individual was impaired. The problem is, current test can't show if the individual consumed the marijuana 3 hours ago or 23 days ago. So can you imagine the court cases and tax dollars wasted on dealing with this gray area? So until that accurate tests exists that will help law enforcement, I can't support any measure related to the legalization of marijuana." Sadly, until Biasiucci changes his perspective relative to cannabis, we can't support giving him a worthy grade.

## **State House District 06**

### **(R) Walter Blackman: F**

[Blackman](#) first won his House seat in LD6 in 2018. He is back for another run at the same seat this November. In 2018, Blackman told us that he wasn't interested after repeated attempts to contact him for our survey. We have come a long way since then because Blackman did respond to our survey in 2020. Unfortunately, he had strong disagreement with six of the seven statements demonstrating that he is strongly against eliminating the federal prohibition of marijuana, strongly against supporting the medical marijuana program, strongly against the legalization of adult-use marijuana in Arizona, strongly against children never being removed from a parent due to the parent's choice to consume marijuana, strongly against eliminating harsh penalties that Arizonans face for non-violent marijuana offenses and strongly against expungement for those who have records of marijuana possession. For someone who fancies himself as a criminal justice reformer, Blackman's responses with respect to cannabis certainly aren't congruent with criminal justice reform. Sadly, Blackman is also in public opposition to Prop 207 and even mentioned in an interview on the Jeff Orvatis Show on September 25, 2020 that heroin, cocaine and another substance are in the initiative. Blackman did sponsor HB2638 in 2020 which created official policy for deflection programs and has had success with criminal justice bills in 2019. While we support Blackman's criminal justice efforts, we just can't get behind his positions relative to cannabis.

### **(R) Brenda Barton: D+**

[Barton](#) first won a House seat in LD5 in 2010. She then won a House seat in LD6 in 2012 and maintained that seat through 2019. Due to term limits, she could not seek election for the same seat in 2018. She returns this year for a shot at the House seat again in LD6. Barton has co-sponsored a couple a cannabis-reform bills in her tenure in the House. She co-sponsored HB2597 which sought to decriminalize 3 ½ grams of marijuana to a misdemeanor 1 charge. She also co-sponsored SB1420, a 2018 attempt at testing. On the Jeff Orvatis Show on September 25, 2020, Barton was asked about Prop 207. She stated that she was a no on Prop 207. She exclaimed that the proposition is not smart and not safe. She further opined that this issue should be addressed through the legislature and that Prop 207 is harmful to our kids. Barton then wildly stated that medical marijuana is being given to our children. Lastly, Barton stated that Prop 207 is negative for our economy as well.

### **(D) Coral Evans: I**

[Evans](#) served two terms on the Flagstaff City Council having been elected in 2008 and 2012. She was then elected to Mayor of Flagstaff in 2016 and 2018. She is now seeking a House seat in LD6 in this year's election. Evans did not respond to our survey despite repeated calls and emails. Even with an extensive effort to research Evans, we could not find anything relative to her and

cannabis-related issues. This is surprising given how long she has been politically active but we simply do not have enough information to grade her.

**(IND) Art Babbott: A**

[Babbott](#) has served 15 years in elected local and county government. He has served on the Flagstaff City Council and is currently serving on the Coconino Board of Supervisors. In an interview with the Jeff Orvatis Show on September 25, 2020, Babbott was asked about Prop 207. Suffice it to say that we were impressed by his response. Babbott stated that the criminalization of recreational marijuana use is not serving good criminal justice outcomes. He said that putting people on probation and arresting them for recreational marijuana use is not serving the interests of our society nor the criminal justice system. Lastly, Babbott said that this is the right decision and he supports the citizens in deciding it.

**State House District 07**

**(R) Jim Parks: D**

[Parks](#) is a family rancher and veteran who is running for a House seat in LD7 for the first time this year. Sadly, Parks did not respond to our survey despite calls and emails to contact him. In the ivoterguide, Parks was asked if he supported the legalization of marijuana. Parks responded by stating that he strongly disagrees with legalization. Without clarity from our survey and taking into account his strong opposition to legalization, we'll grade Parks accordingly.

**(R) David Peelman: C+**

[Peelman](#) is a retired US Army and Coast Guard veteran. Peelman responded to our survey and supports the medical marijuana program, supports reducing criminal penalties for non-violent marijuana offenses and supports expungement. However, Peelman does not support the legalization of adult-use marijuana in Arizona and remains neutral relative to children being removed from a parent simply due to the parent's use of marijuana. Peelman addresses his lack of support for adult-use and his neutrality on children being removed from parents below:

“I cannot in good conscious support 'legalization' of marijuana in the same way alcohol is legal, until such time as detection devices, like breathalyzers for alcohol are developed and in wide-spread use. Having has (sic) some familiarity with marijuana, I know it does impact one's thinking,

responses, moods, etc. I do not want, nor will I support anything that would acquiesce to more impaired drivers on the road.”

“This is tough question that requires more fleshing out. I don't believe children should be removed from parents, without due process and good cause. Simple use of marijuana could or could not be reason enough. Just as an alcoholic consuming quantities of alcohol in the open and long term presence of children to the detriment of the child's development. I STRONGLY BELIEVE in PARENT'S RIGHTS, with the caveat of PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY of ensuring their children are raised without undue, and subliminal pressure to conform to unhealthy lifestyles.”

We appreciate the fact the Peelman was able to elaborate on his concerns. If elected, we'll work with Peelman to address them.

**(D) Arlando Teller: C**

[Teller](#) ran as a write-in for a House seat in LD7 in 2014. He returned in 2018 to win a House seat in LD7 and is up for reelection to that seat this year. Teller responded to our survey and was neutral on six of our seven statements. He did offer support for not having children removed from a parent due to cannabis use. Even though his position seems to be predominantly neutral, Teller has co-sponsored a few bills in the legislature related to cannabis-reform. We'll reach out to him to see if we can move the needle on his neutrality.

**(D) Myron Tsosie: I**

[Tsosie](#) first won a House seat in LD7 in 2018 and is seeking reelection for that seat this year. Tsosie also serves on the Chinle Unified School District School Board. He did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts at contact via email and phone. Tsosie has not sponsored or co-sponsored any cannabis-related bills in his tenure in the House. After a significant amount of research, we simply cannot find enough information on Tsosie to provide a grade for him.

**State House District 08**

**(R) Frank Pratt: C-**

[Pratt](#) served in the House in LD8 from 2009 to 2017. Pratt was then elected to the Senate in 2016 and has served there until today. He is now seeking a House seat in LD8 this year. Despite attempts to contact Pratt, he did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research yielded nothing new on Pratt so we'll rely on our assessment of him from 2018: “An immaculate old-school politician, Pratt is good in meetings but little in action.” We will admit that Pratt was quite pleasant to meet with during our 2020 lobby day confirming our assessment of him in 2018.

**(R) David Cook: C**

[Cook](#) first won a House seat in 2016 in LD8 and has maintained the seat to today. He is seeking reelection for the seat this year. Cook did not respond to our survey even though we contacted him by phone and emails. Relative to a September 8, 2020 General Election LD8 Candidate Debate sponsored by the AZCCEC, the Pinal Central wrote this about Cook: “Cook said he would not be voting for the initiative. The situation should have been handled in the Legislature, he said. There are also unanswered questions about what to do with all of the people who have been convicted for marijuana violations who are currently sitting in jail. He suggest an ad hoc committee to research the situation and contact other states, such as Colorado, that have legalized marijuana.”

We like that Cook is willing to consider legalization through the legislature but that just didn't work out real well in the last legislative session. Lastly, we were not pleased to see Cook as a co-sponsor of the disastrous bill HCR2045 this year that sought a 2% THC cap for the medical marijuana program. We'll give Cook the benefit of the doubt relative to his grade because he has been supportive of hemp and testing in the past.

**(D) Sharon Girard: A**

[Girard](#) is a retired Physician's Assistant who is running again for the House in LD8 after being defeated in the district in 2018. Girard didn't hesitate to answer our survey and nailed it with straight fives to our seven questions indicating full support of cannabis. To solidify her position, Girard writes: “As a former healthcare provider I agree with the recreational and medicinal use of marijuana. No one has ever overdosed on this drug and it is safe for adult use.” Girard also stated that she would vote yes on Prop 207 in an LD8 debate on September 8, 2020 sponsored by the Pinal Partnership.

**State House District 09**

**(R) Brendan Lyons: C**

[Lyons](#) is running for a House seat in LD9 for the first time this year. Unfortunately, Lyons did not respond to our survey despite several attempts to contact him. In an AZCCEC Debate on September 15, 2020 for LD9, Lyons was asked if he would vote for Prop 207. Lyons stated that he is a public safety advocate and that having someone being impaired behind the wheel is not something that he can get behind. Lyons suggested that if the voters do approve Prop 207, then

he wonders how we can leverage the revenue from Prop 207 for education and public safety. Furthermore, Lyons said that he does not support recreational marijuana and that he will be voting no on Prop 207.

**(D) Randall Friese: B**

[Friese](#), a trauma surgeon, has served in the House in LD9 since 2015. He responded to our survey and was strongly supportive of four of our statements. He was supportive of eliminating federal prohibition and legalizing for adult-use in Arizona. Friese has sponsored and co-sponsored numerous cannabis-related bills including Representative Powers Hannley's bill HB2840 which sought to allow patients to continue to use tangible registry cards. However, Friese's attempt at legalization (tax and regulate) in the last legislative failed miserably. While Friese has worked on cannabis legislation for years with both the industry and activists, his bill to tax and regulate (HB2657) demonstrated no progress in his understanding of the plant nor the needs of its consumers. Sadly, that effort lowers his grade.

**(D) Pam Powers Hannley: A+**

[Powers Hannley](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD9 in 2016 and has served in that capacity ever since. She is up for reelection this year in LD9. Powers Hannley responded to our survey with straight fives to our seven statements. We could have predicted her responses as Powers Hannley has been at the forefront of cannabis reform in the legislature. She has sponsored myriad bills related to cannabis each year and is our strongest advocate and ally in the House. Even in 2016, Powers Hannley's position on cannabis was clear: "I believe that Arizona should legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana. Arresting and jailing people for using marijuana does nothing more than feed the private prison industry, add to our mass incarceration problem, waste taxpayer money on prisons, and ruin people's lives. Also, it has been shown that incarceration for marijuana is often discriminatory. Blacks and whites illegally use marijuana at about the same rate, yet black people are far more likely to be jailed for the same crime." Powers Hannley was right then and she's right now: "Cannabis is a medicinal plant that has been used safely for centuries around the world. Legalization is long overdue."

**State House District 10**

**(R) Mabelle Gummere: A**

With a background in real estate, management and business ownership, [Gummere](#) responded to our survey by strongly supporting five of our statements and supporting children never being removed from a parent for marijuana use and working to reduce harsh penalties for non-violent marijuana offenses. Gummere also provided us with this statement regarding cannabis: "Although there are always exceptions to the rule, I support legalization in Arizona. Just as with the

consumption of alcohol, we are assumed to be responsible adults. I also support federal legalization to allow Veterans to seek help, and discuss with their VA physicians the benefits of using marijuana as opposed to opioids. Society has changed, we are no longer living in 1964, it's 2020." Lots to like in that statement...welcome to 2020!

**(R) Michael Hicks: A**

[Hicks](#) is no stranger to local politics. He served eight years on the Tucson Unified School District #1 Governing Board ending his term as President of the Board. Hicks also unsuccessfully ran for Ward 4 in 2019. Hicks spoke with us on the phone and responded to our survey. His responses were impressive with straight fives for our seven statements. Hicks also stated: "Between alcohol and marijuana, I have never seen any aggressive actions related to marijuana consumption." With strong support regarding cannabis and cannabis-related issues, we look to Hicks to be an ally if elected!

**(D) Stephanie Stahl Hamilton: A**

[Stahl Hamilton](#) is an ordained minister running for the first time for House in LD10. She responded to our survey in a resounding fashion with straight fives across the board on all seven questions. With demonstrable strong support of cannabis and cannabis-related issues, Stahl Hamilton will clearly be an ally of our cause.

**(D) Domingo DeGrazia: A-**

[DeGrazia](#) is a trial lawyer in Juvenile Court and was first elected to his House seat in LD10 in 2018. DeGrazia responded to our survey with straight fours relative to our seven statements showing support but not strong support for cannabis-related issues. While we certainly appreciate his support, we'd enjoy seeing DeGrazia gravitate to strong support with respect to cannabis reform. We are pleased to report that DeGrazia has co-sponsored several cannabis-related bills in the House during his tenure.

**State House District 11**

**(R) Bret Roberts: D-**

[Roberts](#) was first elected to a House seat in 2018 in LD11. He returns this year to seek reelection for that same seat. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Roberts did not respond to our survey. In 2019, Roberts told Arizona NORML outside of his office at the capitol that we better not be here to talk about legalization because he is against that. The ivoterguide confirmed his opposition in stating that Roberts is strongly opposed to legalizing marijuana. Roberts sponsored a bill with his prohibitionist seatmate Mark Finchem this year (HCR2044) that sought to divert money away from the medical marijuana fund and use it to fund substance abuse treatment beds and mental health beds in the State Department of Corrections. Suffice it to say that Roberts is no friend to cannabis.



**(R) Mark Finchem: F**

[Finchem](#) first won a House seat in LD11 in 2014 and has maintained that seat in the chamber until today. He is seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact Finchem, he did not respond to our survey. In an ivoterguide candidate survey, Finchem stated that he disagrees with the legalization of marijuana. Arizona NORML met with Finchem in 2019 at the capitol. We were shocked at his condescension and sanctimony. He wouldn't let us talk and made two statements that were particularly troubling. Finchem said that marijuana causes schizophrenia and that THC is responsible for the road rage on I-10. We'll let those statements sink in for a while. Finchem was a co-sponsor of the ridiculous HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% THC cap in the medical marijuana program) in the last legislative session as well as a co-sponsor of HCR2044. HCR2044 sought to raid money from the medical marijuana fund to be dispersed to the State Department of Corrections for mental health and substance abuse beds. Finchem's distaste for all things cannabis is painfully clear!

**(D) Felipe Perez: B**

[Perez](#) is a family physician running for the first time for a House seat in LD11 this year. Perez did not respond to our survey despite attempts to reach him. In an AZCCEC sponsored debate for LD11 on September 30, 2020, Perez spoke about his thoughts relative to Prop 207. Perez stated that the measure shows that our state leaders are not listening to citizens and that we need to decriminalize marijuana. However, Perez admonished that this is a complicated process and he wished that the state had addressed it before we got to where we are now. He felt that the legislature could address safety concerns with experts prior to creating a bill but still stressed the overall need to decriminalize. Perez also commented that it is great for revenue. We can work with that!

**State House District 12**

**(R) Travis Grantham: B-**

[Grantham](#) first ran unsuccessfully for US House in 2012 in District 9. He returned in 2016 to win a House seat in LD12 and has continued in that seat until today. He is seeking reelection for that seat this year. Despite telling us that he would respond to our survey, Grantham never did even

after repeated follow-ups via email. Grantham was quoted in [azmarijuana.com](http://azmarijuana.com) this year regarding legalization: “Grantham believes a legislative approach for major laws, such as legalizing marijuana for adult use, makes more sense.” In addition, Grantham told AZ Central in 2018: “The recreational use of marijuana and the effects of those in close proximity to the product is problematic. Additionally, I do believe that some steps towards decriminalization can and should be taken.” At least Grantham is willing to have the conversation and consider legalization.

**(R) Jake Hoffman: I**

[Hoffman](#) has served on the Higley School Board and the Queen Creek Town Council. This is his first bid for a House seat in LD12. Sadly, Hoffman did not respond to our survey despite repeated phone calls and emails. Even with extensive research, we could not find anything for Hoffman and cannabis-related issues.

### **State House District 13**

**(R) Joanne Osborne: F**

[Osborne](#) has served on the Goodyear Planning & Zoning Commission and on the Goodyear City Council. She was first elected to a House seat in LD13 in 2018 and is seeking reelection for that same seat this year. Osborne did not respond to our survey despite phone and email attempts at contact. In the [ivoterguide](#), Osborne was strongly opposed to the legalization of recreational marijuana. This rivals what Arizona NORML said about Osborne in 2018: “Another legalization oppose according to CAP, when asked by AZ Central about legalization, Osborne said, “Absolutely Not.”” Let’s go for the trifecta by stating that Osborne was also a co-sponsor this year of the loathsome HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% THC cap for the medical marijuana program) demonstrating her disdain for the medical marijuana program and patients. That’s three strikes against Osborne.

**(R) Tim Dunn: F**

[Dunn](#) first won a House seat in LD13 in 2018 and is a back for another run at the same seat this year. Dunn responded to our survey and proclaimed neutrality relative to understanding the science behind medical marijuana, having children never removed from a parent due to a parent’s cannabis use and support for the medical marijuana program. Sadly, Dunn proceeded to state that he does not support expungement for marijuana possession or use and does not support working to reduce the severity of charges for non-violent marijuana offenses. Lastly, Dunn strongly opposed the elimination of federal prohibition and the legalization of adult-use in Arizona. As

icing on his less than supportive cake, Dunn added: “I do not believe we should legalize marijuana in az further than the medical that is current. This will create a problem in the work place with enforcement. Medical marijuana’s rules of obtaining prescriptions need to be tightened up.”

**(D) Mariana Sandoval: I**

[Sandoval](#) is a paralegal who serves on the Agua Fria Union High School District Governing Board. She is seeking a House seat in LD13 for the first time this year. Sandoval did not respond to our survey despite our attempts at contacting her. Unfortunately, we could not find anything in our research for Sandoval and cannabis-related issues so we simply cannot grade her.

**State House District 14**

**(R) Gail Griffin: F**

[Griffin](#) has been involved in Arizona politics for many years. She served in the House from 1997 to 2001. Griffin then won a Senate seat in LD25 in 2010. In 2012, she won a Senate seat in LD14 and maintained that seat until 2016. Griffin then returned to the House in LD18 in 2018 and is seeking that same seat in 2020. Despite numerous calls and emails, Griffin did not respond to our survey. We really don’t need survey responses to grade Griffin. She is a staunch opponent who doesn’t even support medical marijuana. In 2018 caucus speeches, she equated cannabis with heroin and medical marijuana patients with junkies. In 2016, she opposed legalization in an Arizona Trucking Association Candidate Survey. She has opposed lower medical marijuana card costs and was a co-sponsor this year of the dreaded HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% cap on THC in the medical marijuana program). Griffin gives new meaning to the words “term limits.”

**(R) Becky Nutt: F**

[Nutt](#) first won a House seat in LD14 in 2016 and has held the seat until today. She is seeking reelection for the seat this year. Despite attempts to contact her, Nutt did not respond to our survey. Nutt has worked hard against reforms in committees and on the floor in her tenure in the House. In 2016, Nutt stated in an Arizona Trucking Association survey that she opposed Prop 205 (the legalization effort in 2016) and that she did not support the legalization of marijuana. In an affront to medical marijuana and patients, Nutt was a co-sponsor to the inane bill HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% THC cap in the medical marijuana program). With her support of HCR2045 and her lack of support for legalization, we’ll grade Nutt accordingly.

**(D) Kimberly Beach-Moschetti: A**

[Beach-Moschetti](#) is an Army veteran and 22-year teacher who responded quickly to our survey. Beach-Moschetti responses were in strong agreement with our statements demonstrating that she will be an ally if elected. In fact, Beach Moschetti was exuberant in this Facebook post regarding ballot initiatives this year:

“How wonderful! Some really great initiatives on the ballot!

Invest in Ed  
Recreational Marijuana  
Improved Health Care

Thank you to all that supported and signed.”

How wonderful indeed!

**(D) Ronnie Maestas-Condos: A-**

[Maestas-Condos](#) is a newcomer to politics and this is her first time running for a seat in the House in LD14. Maestas-Condos responded to our survey and was honest that she is not familiar with the benefits of medicinal marijuana. We will certainly do some outreach with her regarding education. She was strongly supportive of our other statements. We’ll let Maestas-Condos state her position: “I am not familiar with the medical benefits of Marijuana, though I have heard personal testimonials to its effects. Mostly I feel Marijuana should be decriminalized, and regulated the same way alcohol consumption is. On the last question, expunging records would depend on other contributing offenses. If it is solely a marijuana violation I support expungement.”

**State House District 15**

**(R) Justin Wilmeth: I**

[Wilmeth](#) is running for a House seat in LD15 for the first time this year. Despite repeated contacts, Wilmeth did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research did not yield enough information for us to grade Wilmeth relative to cannabis-related issues.

**(R) Steve Kaiser: F**

[Kaiser](#) is a veteran and small business owner who is running for a House seat in LD15 for the first time this year. One of our volunteers reports back relative to a phone call with Kaiser: “Won’t be voting for prop 207, and won’t be filling out survey, then hung up on me.” Had Kaiser taken the time to talk with us further, we might have been able to give him a better grade based on clarifying his position. Since our research yielded nothing on Kaiser, we’ll go with his statements to our volunteer and curve down due to his incivility.

**(D) Kristin Dybvig-Pawelko: A**

[Dybvig-Pawelko](#) first ran unsuccessfully for the Senate seat in LD15 in 2018 and has now set her sights on a House seat in LD15 in this year’s election. We reached out to Dybvig-Pawelko via phone and email but she did not respond to our survey. On January 31, 2020 Dybvig-Pawelko

told Blog for Arizona that: “We need to stop prosecuting for marijuana offenses as there is a disproportionate share of minorities in jail. We have to move away from private prison as having a profit motive in incarceration will only ensure that we incarcerate more of our population.” In 2018, Blog for Arizona had Dybvig-Pawelko on record predicting eventual cannabis legalization and further that “people incarcerated for drug possession should be released when marijuana becomes universally legalized in the state.” There’s a lot to like about Dybvig-Pawelko regarding cannabis reform!

## **State House District 16**

### **(R) John Fillmore: F**

[Fillmore](#) represented LD23 in the House in 2010 but then lost in an LD-16 Senate race in 2012. He ran unsuccessfully for the House seat in LD16 in 2014 and 2016 before finally getting elected to the seat in 2018. He is running for the same seat in LD16 this year. Fillmore responded to our survey by stating his strong support for eliminating the federal prohibition of marijuana and expungement or marijuana possession and use charges. He offered support for working to end harsh penalties for non-violent marijuana offenses and his understanding of the science behind medical marijuana. Lamentably, Fillmore than veers off the rails in his strong opposition to the medical marijuana program, having children never removed from a parent due to marijuana and the legalization of adult-use in Arizona. Fillmore is also publicly opposed to Prop 207. Lastly, in 2018, Fillmore was quoted by AZ Central: “I am NOT in support of legalizing recreational marijuana nor introducing any new intoxicating or impairment assistance of any kind into our society. We already have enough crazies and an overabundance of BOTH LEGAL and ILLEGAL substances abused.” With this type of sentiment, our grade is obvious.

### **(R) Jacqueline Parker: D**

[Parker](#) has practiced law in a private firm and has been a legal policy advisor. This is her first run at a House seat in LD16 this year. Parker did not respond to our survey despite attempts to reach her via phone and email. In the ivoterguide, Parker was asked if she supported the legalization of recreational marijuana. She strongly disagreed to legalization. Without further information from our research and without clarity provided by our survey, we’ll grade Parker on her strong opposition to legalization.

### **(D) Helen Hunter: I**

[Hunter](#) is a newcomer who ran as a write-in for LD16 in the 2020 primary. She garnered enough votes to participate in the general election. Hunter was gracious in her response that she is not as informed as she would like to be to respond to our survey. Our research on Hunter and cannabis-related issues yielded nothing. While Hunter is running against an F rated prohibitionist, we just don’t have enough information to provide her with a grade.

## **State House District 17**

**(R) Liz Harris: D-**

[Harris](#) is a real estate broker/business owner and is running for the first time for a House seat in LD-17. Despite repeated calls and emails, Harris did not respond to our survey. In an ivoterguide survey, Harris did respond the following statement: I support the legalization of recreational marijuana. Harris's response: Disagree. With her lack of support for legalization and her unwillingness to respond to us, we are left with little choice relative to Harris's grade.

**(R) Jeff Weninger: D**

[Weninger](#) first won a House seat in LD17 in 2014 and has held the seat until today. He is up for reelection for that seat this year in LD17. He is also a two-term former Chandler City Council member. Weninger did not respond to our survey even though we contacted him repeatedly. In an ivoterguide survey statement, Weninger disagreed with supporting legalizing recreational marijuana. In 2018, Arizona NORML stated this about Weninger: "While this representative has taken meetings on cannabis reform, Weninger has yet to take any positive stance on the issue. He told CAP that he opposes legalization."

**(D) Jennifer Pawlik: C-**

[Pawlik](#) first ran for a House seat in LD17 in 2016 but lost in the general election. She returned in 2018 to win a House seat in LD17 and is seeking the same seat for reelection this year. Despite attempts at contacting her, Pawlik did not respond to our survey. Here's what Arizona NORML reported relative to Pawlik in 2018: "On cannabis, Pawlik told AZ Central that she does not back legalization: "No, however, I am in favor of decriminalizing marijuana which would help to reduce our huge prison population.'" In 2016, Pawlik was asked if she supported legalization via Prop 205. Pawlik stated that she did not support Prop 205 and wrote: "I oppose the marijuana ballot proposition. Because legalized marijuana is a relatively new idea, long-term studies to report on the impact of legalization have yet to be completed. Short-terms studies in Washington State have shown an increase in traffic fatalities linked to marijuana usage and homeless rates and the need for social services have dramatically increased in Colorado." Pawlik has not led on any cannabis-reform bills nor co-sponsored any in two years in the legislature. She did meet with us during our lobby day earlier this year. Given her willingness to meet and her support for decriminalization, we'll curve Pawlik's grade.

**State House District 18**

**(R) Don Hawker: F**

Hawker, a retired computer programmer, ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD18 in 2018. He then ran as write-in for the primary for House in LD-18 this year and made it to the general election. Despite repeated attempts to reach Hawker, he did not respond to our survey. In an LD-18 debate on August 26, 2020 sponsored by the AZCCEC, Hawker was asked if he supported Prop 207. He responded by stating that he doesn't support Prop 207. He questioned what people are trying to escape from and pondered what we are going to legalize next. He came back to why people aren't happy and that Prop 207 is not going to help society. Suffice it to say that we weren't impressed by Hawkers comments.

**(R) Bob Robson: D-**

[Robson](#) served in the Arizona House from 2001 to 2009. He then won a House seat in LD20 in 2010. In 2012 and 2014, Robson won a House seat in LD18. He lost that seat in 2016. In 2018, Robson was defeated in the race for Maricopa County Justice of the Peace Kyrene District. He is back this year to challenge for a House seat in LD18. Robson also served on the Chandler City Council from 1992-2000. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Robson did not respond to our survey. In 2012, Robson didn't seem to like the term medical marijuana. In fact, he wanted to have the term medical marijuana removed from medical marijuana bills. Here's the quote from azcentral.com: "We're already tacitly committing this body to recognizing something that doesn't really exist," Robson, R-Chandler, said, as he urged the term be struck from bills that reference (dare we say it?) medical marijuana. Robson argued that he's seen no studies that codify marijuana as having medical properties." In a 2016 Arizona Trucking Association survey, Robson opposed the ballot initiative to legalize adult-use in Arizona. Lastly, Robson was asked if he supported Prop 207 in an LD18 candidate debate held on August 26, 2020 by the AZCCEC. Robson declined to answer the question by stating that he is not going to tell people how to vote. He stated that as a legislator, he must take whatever the public gives him and uphold it. We don't really think a politician's opinion or position equates to telling people how to vote.

**(D) Denise "Mitzi" Epstein: B-**

[Epstein](#) first ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD18 in 2014. She returned to win the seat in LD18 in 2016 and has held that seat until today. She is seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact her, Epstein did not respond to our survey. Here's what we had to say about Epstein in our 2018 General Election Candidate Guide: "While Epstein has spoken in favor of cannabis reform bills off the floor, she is less active than several of her allies in the House. Note her ambiguous centrist answer to AZ Central: "This decision is best left up to the voters. If marijuana is ever legalized, we need to ensure it is strongly regulated and monitored so it is kept out of the hands of children and Arizonans are safe in their community, at work, and on our roadways.""

In an LD18 General Election Candidate debate sponsored by the AZCCEC, Epstein was asked if she supported Prop 207. She stated that she hasn't made a decision yet but that parts of the initiative make sense. She felt that it would stop us from putting people in prison for relatively small amounts of marijuana possession. Epstein then said that prison doesn't solve perceived problems because of cannabis use. She continued to say that large scale possession would still be

a crime. Epstein then offered a couple of things she would like to fix if Prop 207 passes. She feels that the initiative creates an oligopoly but that they did some nice work in opening the market for some new entrepreneurs with support. Furthermore, Epstein does not want to see advertising and she is worried about the initiative reining in advertising. Epstein also stated that if the initiative passes, they will have to do their job to protect children. Lastly, when asked if she has ever smoked or ingested weed, Epstein said no because she doesn't like any kind of smoke. Asked about ingestion, she said no as well. There are some holes in her arguments but at least Epstein is willing to have the conversation. We'll look for more from her if she is reelected.

**(D) Jennifer Jermaine: B**

[Jermaine](#) works in the non-profit sector and first won a House seat in LD18 in 2018. She is seeking reelection for that same seat this year. Jermaine did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to email her. Jermaine did co-sponsor two cannabis reform bills in 2019: HB2554 which sought to coalesce the definition of marijuana and cannabis in response to the Jones Case and HB2555 which sought to decriminalize up to one ounce of marijuana. Jermaine was non-committal in her support of Prop 207 in an LD18 General Election Candidate Debate sponsored by the AZCCEC on August 26, 2020. While she absolutely supports the voters' ability to vote on the proposition, she stated that she hasn't decided if she supports Prop 207. Jermaine said that she likes the fact that the initiative funds enforcement for DUI and zoning. Lastly, when asked if she has ever ingested marijuana, Jermaine said that she had over 20 years ago.

**State House District 19**

**(D) Lorenzo Sierra: A**

[Sierra](#) has served in the House in LD19 since 2016. He responded to our survey and was strongly supportive of 5 or the 7 statements. He was supportive of never having children removed from a parent over marijuana use and expungement. He also voiced his support for expunging minor marijuana charges: "For small time personal use, I support expungement." In 2018, Sierra told AZ Central that "I believe well-regulated, responsibly consumed marijuana should be legal. Three main reasons are: 1. Decreased incarceration 2. Legally mandated safety and usage standards 3. Revenue generation." In 2020, Sierra was the co-sponsor of HB2049 with his seatmate Representative Espinoza. HB2049 sought to add autism spectrum disorder and opioid use disorder to the list of qualifying conditions for the medical marijuana program. This issue was Arizona NORML's flagship concern in the 2020 legislative session and we were truly appreciative of Sierra's support.

**(D) Diego Espinoza: A**

[Espinoza](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD19 in 2014 and has served three terms in the chamber since then. He is up for reelection for the same seat this year. While Espinoza did not



respond to our survey, he is incredibly supportive in the legislature. Espinoza has led on and co-sponsored many cannabis-related reform bills. In the legislative session this year, Espinoza led by sponsoring HB2049 with his seatmate Lorenzo Sierra which sought to add autism spectrum disorder to the list of qualifying conditions relative to the medical marijuana program. This bill represented Arizona NORML's flagship issue with regard to our 2020 legislative agenda. The West Valley News reported on Espinoza's bill on February 5, 2020 and printed these comments: In addition, Espinoza is wanting to pass a legislation adding autism to the list of medical conditions doctors can prescribe medical marijuana for. "I think it adds another tool in the toolbox for our medical professionals to ensure they can address the situation," Espinoza said. He said there have been many parents of children who are diagnosed with autism and believe their children would benefit from medical marijuana. "Some of these children are taking a variety of pills, sometimes up to a dozen," Espinoza said. "I have concerns with what their future health will look like by taking so many pills and what damage can be done. "Espinoza said using medical marijuana as treatment has shown to be beneficial in other states. "There has been significant improvements in other states, especially in Colorado," Espinoza said. "We allow medical professionals to make that decision and it shouldn't be legislators denying that opportunity for a better life for the child.'"

## **State House District 20**

### **(R) Anthony Kern: F**

[Kern](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD20 in 2014 and has held the seat until today. He is seeking reelection for the seat this year. Kern did not respond to our survey despite efforts to contact him. Kern has been hostile to cannabis and has been known to make disparaging remarks relative to cannabis in committee hearings. In fact, here's what Arizona NORML had to say about him in our 2018 General Election Candidate Guide: "During HR1820 (the testing bill) Kern used his speeches to belittle and insult cannabis medical patients. His votes on the testing bill aside, Kern needs educating." In the ivoterguide, Kern strongly disagreed with supporting the legalization of marijuana. As chairman of the House Rules Committee, Kern has the capacity to stymie cannabis-related bills by not allowing them to pass through the committee. In 2019, the legislature tried to fix the statute discrepancies between the definitions of marijuana and cannabis in response to the Jones Case. That effort resulted in HB2149. Kern was opposed to HB2149 and was quoted in Filter as to why: "I went to go get my haircut and they're right next to one of these dispensaries, said Republican Representative Anthony Kern, when justifying his vote. The people cutting my hair were talking about the clientele outside the dispensary, the fact that they're getting more and more crimes being committed in that parking lot. They're afraid to come out of their job. Tweaking the definition does a disservice to public safety, and a disservice to our constituents." Wow...that's some good 'ol prohibitionist fear-mongering there!

**(R) Shawna Bolick: F**

[Bolick](#) unsuccessfully ran for a House seat in LD11 in 2010. She then lost in an election for a House seat in LD28 in 2014. Bolick returned in 2018 to win a House seat in LD20 and is seeking reelection for that same seat this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact her, Bolick did not respond to our survey. In 2018, Bolick told CAP that she opposes legalization. When asked by the ivoterguide if she supports the legalization of recreational marijuana, Bolick was in strong disagreement of legalization. Lastly, Bolick demonstrated her lack of support for the medical marijuana program and patients in Arizona by co-sponsoring the repulsive HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% THC cap in the medical marijuana program) earlier this year in the legislature.

**(D) Judy Schwiebert: I**

[Schwiebert](#) is a former teacher who is running for a House seat for the first time in LD20 this year. Schwiebert did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts. Sadly, our research did not yield any results with respect to Schwiebert and cannabis-related issues so we simply cannot give her a grade.

**State House District 21**

**(R) Kevin Payne: A**

[Payne](#) first won a House seat in LD21 in 2016 and has held that seat until today. He is running for reelection this year for the same seat in LD21. Payne did not respond to our survey despite our attempts to reach him. Payne has been a strong advocate in the House and has met regularly with Arizona NORML. In fact, here's what we had to say about him in 2018: "The real deal, Payne was the driving force in the House behind testing bill HR1820 and plans an aggressive reform agenda for the 2019 legislative session." We were right. Payne was the prime sponsor of one cannabis reform bill and co-sponsored three more in 2019. This year, Payne was the prime sponsor of HB2784 which sought to establish a medical marijuana research committee to oversee and provide grants for marijuana research studies on the safety and efficacy of using marijuana for medical purposes.

**(R) Beverly Pingerelli: D**

[Pingerelli](#) currently serves on the Peoria Unified School District's Governing Board having first been elected to the board in 2014. She is seeking a House seat in LD21 this year. Despite repeated phone calls and emails, Pingerelli did not respond to our survey. In the ivoterguide, Pingerelli strongly disagreed with a statement asking if she supported the legalization of recreational

marijuana. Without further information on Pingerelli and her unwillingness to respond to our survey for clarity on her positions, we'll grade Pingerelli on her strong opposition to legalization.

**(D) Kathy Knecht: I**

[Knecht](#) was elected to the Peoria Unified School District Governing Board in 2006, 2010 and 2014. She then unsuccessfully ran as an Independent for the Senate seat in LD21 in 2018. She returns this year with another run at the Senate seat as a Democrat. Despite repeated contacts, Knecht did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research did not produce anything on Knecht and cannabis-related issues so we simply don't have enough information to grade her.

**State House District 22**

**(R) Ben Toma: B+**

[Toma](#) has worked as a real estate broker and served on the Peoria City Council. He won a House seat in LD22 in 2018 and is seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Despite repeated contacts, Toma did not respond to our survey. Toma has done some good work in the legislature during his tenure with respect to cannabis. He sponsored HB2362 (an expungement bill) in 2019. He was co-sponsor of HB2554 (which sought to redefine cannabis by statute in response to the Jones Case) and HB2404 (which decriminalized up to 2 ½ ounces of marijuana). Toma also sponsored a bill (HB2359) in 2020 that sought to prevent applicants from being denied licenses due to drug or cannabis charges. Oddly, Toma was also co-sponsor of Representative Bower's horrendous bill, HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% THC cap on the medical marijuana program). Despite the latter misgiving, we'll give Toma the benefit of the doubt.

**(R) Frank Carroll: F**

[Carroll](#) first won a House seat in LD22 in 2018 and is seeking reelection for that seat this year. Despite repeated attempts at contact, Carroll did not respond to our survey. In 2018, Carroll told CAP that he is a no on legalization. Carroll showed his true colors in the 2020 legislative session by co-sponsoring the repugnant HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% THC cap in the medical

marijuana program) and HCR2044. HCR2044 sought to raid money from the medical marijuana fund and use it to fund mental health and substance abuse treatment beds in the State Department of Corrections.

**(D) Wendy Garcia: A**

[Garcia](#) unsuccessfully ran for Senate in LD22 in 2018. She's back this year seeking a House seat in LD22. Garcia is a lifelong cannabis advocate at the state and federal level. She responded to our survey with a showing of all fives indicating strong support for cannabis and cannabis-related issues. As a concomitant to that strong support, Garcia offers this insight: "Lets add another "C" to Arizona's five "C" economy- cattle, copper, cotton, citrus, climate and CANNABIS!" We love Garcia's enthusiasm so we'll be adding an A to her cannabis grade!

**(D) Mary Kathleen Honne: A**

[Honne](#) worked in education for over 20 years prior to her foray into politics. Honne responded to our survey with overwhelming support for cannabis and cannabis-related issues. We'll let Sarah Tyree describe Honne: "I have been an advocate for legalization for a while now and have even been able to convert my running mate Kathleen Honne! We had Mikel Weisser on one of our Donuts and Dish Sessions and she was able to really educate herself on the pros to the initiative." Relative to children and parental rights, Honne wrote: "I need more information about what is meant by children being removed from parents for marijuana use. I do believe this is a major area for reform immediately in Arizona to improve equity and justice!" Honne's willingness to educate herself on the initiative and her responses to our survey clearly demonstrate that she'll be an ally to our cause.

**State House District 23**

**(R) John Kavanagh: F**

[Kavanagh](#) previously served in the House in LD23 from 2007 to 2015. He was then elected to the Senate in LD23 in 2014 through 2016. He then won the House seat in LD23 in 2018 and is seeking reelection for that position this year. When contacted by our volunteer, here's what Kavanagh said: "You don't want to hear what I have to say!" Yeah...Kavanagh's probably right, we really don't want to hear what he has to say. In fact, here's what Arizona NORML had to say about Kavanagh in our 2018 General Election Candidate Guide: "Kavanagh is another GOP legislator aiming to cycle between the House and Senate until well into next century. "His antics would be easy to tolerate if this guy wasn't also AZ's most colorful and most dogged prohibitionist."" Kavanagh's cruelty knows no bounds as he attempted to create a bill in 2013 to rescind the entire medical marijuana program in Arizona. In 2018, he voted no on SB1420 (an early testing bill) because the bill lowered patient card costs. In 2020, Kavanagh has taken a public stance against Prop 207. We've seen enough and don't appreciate his treatment of our volunteer.

**(R) Joseph Chaplik: D**

[Chaplik](#) runs a real estate business and is running for a House seat in LD23 for the first time this year. Chaplik did not respond to our survey despite being contacted by phone and email. When asked if he supported the legalization of marijuana in ivoterguide, Chaplik responded that he disagreed with legalization. Since Chaplik did not elucidate his position relative to cannabis by responding to our survey, we'll have to grade him on his opposition to legalization.

**(D) Eric Kurland: B**

[Kurland](#) is a teacher who ran unsuccessfully for this same seat in 2018. In responding to our survey, Kurland was neutral on eliminating federal prohibition and the legalization of adult-use in Arizona. He was supportive of working to eliminate harsh sentences for non-violent marijuana offenses, expungement and understanding the science behind medical marijuana. Lastly, Kurland was strongly supportive of the medical marijuana program and not having children removed from a parent over marijuana use. We spoke with Kurland on September 28<sup>th</sup> and he gave us the following quote: "I believe adults in our country should be free to make decisions for themselves that do not harm others. While I would not be lighting up if it became legal, I do not believe our government should infringe on individual liberties. I would need to see legislation before committing to any unconditional support." We can certainly work with that!

**State House District 24**

**(R) Robyn Cushman: I**

[Cushman](#) ran as a write-in candidate for a House seat in LD24 in the primary and advanced to the general election. Despite repeated phone calls and emails, Cushman did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research failed to find anything concrete on Cushman and cannabis-related issues. Therefore, we are unable to provide a grade for Cushman.

**(R) David Alger Sr.: I**

[Alger](#) ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD24 in 2018. He returned in 2020 as a primary write-in candidate and advanced to the general election this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Alger did not respond to our survey. Sadly, we were unable to find any information on him relative to cannabis-related issues in our research. Therefore, we cannot provide a grade for Alger.

**(D) Amish Shah: B-**

[Shah](#) first won a House seat in LD24 in 2018. He is back this year seeking reelection for the same seat. Despite repeated attempts to contact Shah, he did not respond to our survey. Shah did co-sponsor HB2533 in 2020 which attempted to change the language for the class 6 felony possession

of marijuana from a speck to 2 pounds relative to fines. The bill changed the language that a judge MAY fine you \$750 as opposed to current language of SHALL fine you \$750. That's a step in the right direction but we'll need more from Shah if reelected.

**(D) Jennifer Longdon: A**

[Longdon](#) first won her House seat in LD24 in 2018 and is seeking reelection for that seat this year. Longdon did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts at contacting her. Longdon has been a long-time advocate, a supporter in the legislature and actually worked in the early days of the industry. Here's what Longdon told us in 2018: "I was involved in the MMJ movement in its early days in Arizona as a caregiver. I briefly worked for the first collective in the state. I also helped write several dispensary applications for the first lottery and my pro-MMJ article appeared in the Phoenix New Times. Further, I support legalization of cannabis for recreational use. I would like to see cannabis treated and taxed like alcohol."

**State House District 25**

**(R) Russell Bowers: F**

[Bowers](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD21 in 1996 and was reelected to serve in that same seat in 1998 and 2000. He returned in 2014 to win a House seat in LD25 and has maintained that same seat until today. Bowers began serving as the Speaker of the House in 2019. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Bowers did not respond to our survey. Bowers was the prime sponsor of the dreaded and loathsome HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% THC cap to the medical marijuana program) earlier this year. We'll let Tucson.com tell you more about what Bowers had to say about HCR2045 in an article from March 12, 2020:

"House Speaker Russell Bowers, R-Mesa, acknowledged he was only interested in studying the relationship between use of this drug and violence and schizophrenia. He said there already is evidence of some links. "Not everybody's going to be paranoid schizophrenic," Bowers said. "But a lot of people are." Bowers, who is 67, spoke of growing up and hanging around with marijuana users who were "seen as the cool guys in school." "We were told that it was basically harmless," he said. (We should note that Bowers riffed on the cool guys in school comment in a committee hearing on HCR2045. After talking about the "cool guys," Bowers rhetorically asked, "do you know where they are all at now?" "They're DEAD!"). But he said there is now evidence that is not the case. And Bowers said he sees medical marijuana as "a gateway to full-blown recreational marijuana." What's driving his call, Bowers said, is the book "Tell Your Children" by former New York Times reporter Alex Berenson, which cites various studies that the author says links marijuana to psychosis. There have been criticisms of the book, including an open letter from a group of scholars and clinicians, including from Harvard Medical School and Columbia University, saying that Berenson's methodology is flawed and that he cherry-picks the data used. Bowers said the book cites long-term effects "where we see spiking in horrendous crimes, murders, child abuse, traffic accidents in our surrounding states that have now a history of open recreational

use but also have the medical use.”” We should note that Bowers rified on the cool guys in school comment in a committee hearing on HCR2045 earlier this year. After talking about the “cool guys,” Bowers rhetorically asked, “do you know where they are now?” “They’re DEAD!”

As Speaker of the House, Bowers has even refused to consider his own party’s cannabis bills, saying he won’t “sit down with dopers.”

Well...that’s enough Reefer Madness for right now. We’ll stop and grade Bowers accordingly.

**(R) Michelle Udall: D**

[Udall](#) first ran for a House seat in LD25 in 2014 but lost in the primary. She came back in 2016 and won the House seat that she continues to occupy today. Udall is up for reelection this year for the same House seat. Sadly, Udall did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact her. Udall was a co-sponsor of the horrific HCR2045 (the bill that sought a 2% THC cap in the medical marijuana program) in the 2020 session. In addition, Udall responded to the following ivoterguide survey statement: I support the legalization of recreational marijuana. Udall’s response: Disagree. We disagree with Udall.

**(D) Suzanne Hugg: A-**

[Hugg](#) is a family business owner who is running for the first time for a seat in the House of LD25. She responded to our survey and remained neutral on children never being removed from parents due to cannabis use. She shifted gears and was supportive of understanding the science of medical marijuana, working to reduce harsh penalties for non-violent marijuana offenses and the expungement of records relative to charges of marijuana possession or use. Hugg then voiced her strong support for the medical marijuana program, ending federal prohibition and the legalization for adult-use in Arizona. In an LD25 debate sponsored by the AZCCEC on August 20, 2020, Hugg mentioned that she knows people who use marijuana for medical purposes and has seen the benefits. Hugg also stated that marijuana can be used as alternative to opioids and supports it as a legal alternative.

**State House District 26**

**(R) Seth Marcus Sifuentes: B**

[Sifuentes](#) is a Navy veteran, helicopter mechanic and Naval reservist. This is his first run at one of the House seats in LD26. Sifuentes responded to our survey and was in strong support of four of our seven statements. He remained neutral relative to the science behind medical marijuana, the legalization of adult-use in Arizona and expungement. Sifuentes also provided us with the following statement: “I am a Republican with libertarian leanings. The science for the therapeutic uses of marijuana is becoming sounder. We should end the outright prohibition of marijuana and maintain social responsibility by treating marijuana the way we treat alcohol. The time for Reefer Madness is behind us. Government regulation of marijuana will reduce cartel influence in the market making our streets safer and create tax revenue to be used for the public interest.” We can certainly work with that!

**(R) Bill Loughrige: F**

[Loughrige](#) served 35 years in law enforcement prior to retiring. This is his first run for a House seat in LD26. Sadly, Loughrige told our volunteer that he would not answer our survey and then hung up on him. Thankfully, the ivoterguide revealed how Loughrige views the legalization of marijuana. Loughrige was in strong disagreement relative to his support of legalization. Given his incivility to our volunteer, his strong opposition to legalization and his unwillingness to respond to our survey to clarify his views, Loughrige leaves us no choice but to grade him harshly.

**(D) Athena Salman: A**

[Salman](#) won her LD26 House seat in 2016 and has served in the district for two terms. She is back seeking a third term for House in LD-26 this year. Salman responded to our survey and was in strong support of all seven of our statements. This is not surprising due to the fact that Salman has been a vocal supporter for cannabis reform and has been an ally in the legislature.

**(D) Melody Hernandez: A-**

[Hernandez](#) is a paramedic running for the first time for a House seat in LD26. Although Hernandez did not respond to our survey, she did text with one of our volunteers and has had myriad conversations regarding our survey topics with that volunteer where she has expressed her full support of cannabis reform. Hernandez is running with both Representative Athena Salman and Senator Juan Mendez as the 2020 Millennial Clean Elections Team. Hernandez’s alignment with these two powerful cannabis reformers in the legislature gives us great hope for LD26!

**State House District 27**

**(R) Tatiana Peña: I**

[Peña](#) is an educator and musician who is running for the first time for a House seat in LD27. Despite attempts to contact her, Peña did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research yielded nothing relative to Peña and cannabis-related issues. Therefore, we simply don’t have enough information to grade her.

**(D) Diego Rodriguez: A**



[Rodriguez](#) is a lawyer who first ran unsuccessfully for Maricopa County Attorney in 2016. In that race, he challenged the notorious Bill Montgomery. He returned in 2018 to win a House seat in LD27 and seeks reelection for that seat this year. Although he didn't respond to our survey, Rodriguez has consistently advocated for cannabis reform and has been an ally in the legislature by lending his name to myriad cannabis-related bills. In 2018, he spoke on two different occasions at an Arizona NORML meeting. In his 2016 county attorney race, Rodriguez was discussed by CannabisRadio.com: "Rodriguez mentions that justice is not being served, which is why his campaign is geared towards legalization. He agrees with Prop 205 and believes that it will be passed. Therefore, legalization will be enforced with the new rights the citizens will be given. Rodriguez wants to work with law enforcement from the day the act goes into effect. Rodriguez believes that money is being wasted by incarceration people in Arizona, which is why the Prop will help to modify sentences and help people get back their lives. Post-conviction relief will be the main focus since Rodriguez is pro-legalization and anti mass incarceration. A vote for Diego he says is a vote for the cannabis industry." Rodriguez had it right in 2016 and continues to have it right today!

**(D) Reginald Bolding: B**

[Bolding](#) first won a House seat in LD27 in 2014 and has remained in that seat until today. He is seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Despite repeated attempts at contacting him, Bolding did not respond to our survey. Bolding has not been very bold during his tenure in the House relative to cannabis. In 2019, Bolding did co-sponsor HB2537 which sought to add testing to the medical marijuana program. Bolding was also supportive of Prop 205 (the initiative to legalize) in 2016. We look for Bolding to provide more leadership on cannabis-related reform moving forward.

**State House District 28**

**(R) Jana Jackson: D**

[Jackson](#) is running for a House seat in LD28 for the first time this year. We spoke with Jackson on the phone but could not get her to respond to our survey despite repeated emails. While we couldn't find much on Jackson through our research, we were able to find a response to this ivoterguide survey question: I support the legalization of recreational marijuana. Jackson's response: Strongly Disagree. With her unwillingness to respond to our survey for clarification and her clear opposition to legalization, we will err on the side of caution with Jackson's grade.

**(R) Kenneth Bowers: I**

[Bowers](#) is a veteran and retired Department of Corrections employee. He first unsuccessfully ran for a House seat in LD28 in 2016. He then ran unsuccessfully for the Senate seat in LD28 in 2018. Bowers returns this year to compete for a House seat in LD28. Bowers did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact him. Unfortunately, our research did not uncover any information relative to Bowers and cannabis-related issues. Therefore, we simply do not have enough data to grade Bowers at this time.

**(D) Aaron Lieberman: B+**

[Lieberman](#) first won a House seat in LD28 in 2018 and is seeking the same seat for reelection this year. Despite phone calls and emails, Lieberman did not respond to our survey. Oddly, Lieberman was the only Democrat to co-sponsor the dreaded HCR2045 but then voted against it on the floor. Lieberman impressed us in 2018 with our General Election Candidate Guide: “Presenting himself as a cannabis moderate, Lieberman aims for the middle ground in his statement to AZ Central: “Ultimately, this issue should be left up to the voters to decide. If the voters do decide to legalize marijuana, the state legislature should ensure there is robust infrastructure in place to ensure its safe development to use. I do support medical marijuana and feel strongly the state should be more proactive in ensuring effective regulation of this fast-growing portion of our state economy.”” We look to Lieberman to take more of a leadership role in sponsoring cannabis-related bills if reelected this year.

**(D) Kelli Butler: B+**

[Butler](#) first ran unsuccessfully for a Senate seat in LD28 in 2014. She returned in 2016 to run for a House seat in LD28. She won that seat and has maintained it until today. Butler is seeking reelection for that same seat this year. Butler did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact her. Butler was quoted in an Arizona Capitol Times article on February 15, 2018 about HB2067 (a bill that sought to impose prison terms on medical professionals who fail to conduct full medical exams before issuing a state certification for medical marijuana. Prohibitionist Sheila Polk provided the impetus for this bill). In the article, Butler said that she’s not a fan of recreational use of marijuana. She continued, “But I do think there is a serious medical need for it,” she said, saying she does not want to “criminalize physicians who are doing their job.”” Butler did co-sponsor HB2554 in 2019 which was a bill that sought to coalesce the definitions of cannabis and marijuana in state statute in response to the Jones Case.

## **State House District 29**

**(R) Billy Bragg: C-**

[Bragg](#) is a retired Air Force veteran running for the House seat LD29 for the first time this year. Bragg responded to our survey and was incredibly supportive of the medical marijuana program, never having children separated from their parents due to cannabis use, working to reduce the severity of non-violent marijuana offenses and expungement. However, Bragg veers away from reform when stating his opinion regarding the elimination of federal prohibition and the legalization of cannabis for adult-use in Arizona. Bragg does not support either of these issues and is strongly opposed to legalization in Arizona. Here’s is Bragg’s explanation: “I don't think it should be used for recreational use because of its potency. It is much stronger than it was in the 60s and 70s.” This statement troubles us.

**(R) Helen Fokszanskyj-Conti: D**

Fokszanskyj-Conti is running for the House seat in LD29 for the first time in 2020. She responded to our survey and was only strongly supportive of having children never removed from a home where a parent consumes marijuana and was supportive relative to working to reduce harsh penalties for non-violent marijuana offenders. However, Fokszanskyj-Conti then veers away from support into disagreement and opposition. She does not support expungement for marijuana possession and use. She is strongly opposed to the legalization of adult-use in Arizona and to the elimination of the federal prohibition while remaining neutral on the medical marijuana program and her understanding of the science behind medical marijuana. In addition, Fokszanskyj-Conti strongly disagreed with the legalization of recreational marijuana in an ivoterguide candidate profile.

**(D) Richard Andrade: A**

[Andrade](#) was first elected to his House seat in LD29 in 2014. He is seeking the same seat this year. He responded to our survey and left no question as to his support of cannabis and cannabis-related issues. Andrade was in strong support of each of our seven statements. This is not surprising given Andrade's continued support in the legislature. In 2018, Andrade told us: "very familiar with cannabis personally. Strongly opposes federal government policy. Strongly supports Arizona's mmj program. Will advocate for reducing AZ criminal penalties if elected. Strongly supports state and federal legalization/decriminalization." Lastly, Andrade stated: "We must ensure the Cannabis industry is protected and able to expand without undue regulations."

**(D) César Chávez: A**

[Chávez](#) first won a House seat in LD29 in 2016 and was reelected in 2018. He seeks his third term in the House in LD29 this year. While he didn't respond to our survey, Chávez has been an ally and supporter in the legislature of cannabis reform. He is publicly supporting Prop 207 and recently participated in a MITA (Marijuana Industry Trade Association) webinar about social equity and Prop 207. In 2018, Chavez told Arizona NORML that he: "is very familiar with cannabis personally – strongly opposes federal government policy – strongly supports Arizona's MMJ program – will advocate for reducing AZ criminal penalties if elected – strongly supports state and federal legalization/decriminalization." Chavez was enlightened then and is enlightened now!

**State House District 30**

**(D) Raquel Terán: A**

[Terán](#) unsuccessfully ran for the Senate seat in LD30 in 2012. She returned in 2018 to win the House seat in LD30 and is seeking reelection to that seat this November. Terán responded to our survey with strongly supportive statements of cannabis and cannabis-related issues. Terán also provided us with the following sentiment: “I think we need to regulate and tax and make sure we are not penalizing people for consumption of marijuana.” Just for good measure, here’s Terán to AZ Central in 2018: “Yes, we must regulate and tax Marijuana. It has the potential to create a large commercial sector that could grow the economy and provide jobs for the people in Arizona. Secondly it will provide a large flow of tax revenue that may help with the much needed revenue that is critical to fund social services and transportation. Third, for far too long people have been criminalized for using cannabis, thus creating a large pool of people with criminal records which makes it harder for them to find jobs, homes, and basically causing them to become second class citizens.” There’s a lot to like here!

**(D) Robert Meza: A**

[Meza](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD14 in 2002. He served in that seat until getting elected for a Senate seat in LD14 in 2010. Meza was then elected to a Senate seat in LD30 in 2012 and maintained that position until 2018 when he was elected to a House seat in LD30. He held that house seat until today and is seeking reelection for the same House seat this year. Meza did not respond to our survey despite email and phone contacts. Meza has co-sponsored a few cannabis-related bills in the last couple of legislative sessions. Here’s what Arizona NORML had to say about Meza in our General Election Guide in 2018: “While sending positive signs on the issue, former Senator Meza interacted very little with reformers while in the Senate. However, his strong statement to AZ Central in favor of legalization is very encouraging: “In my legislative district 55% of my constituents voted in favor of legalization. Given numbers like that and the opportunity to fund education with taxes derived from the sale of legalized and highly regulated marijuana it will not only lower crime rates and render much of the illicit drug community without revenue but it will also enable us to further fund our students. Marijuana has been proven to be an effective treatment for many people. Legalization will enable those with medical conditions but without insurance access to this often time’s life-saving treatment. Additionally, no one has ever died from the use of marijuana which cannot be said of many legal substances such as opiates and even alcohol.””

**State Senate District 01**

**(R) Karan Fann: D-**

[Fann](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD1 in 2010 and was reelected in 2012 and 2014 to the same seat. In 2016, she ran for the Senate seat in LD1 and has held that seat until today. She is seeking reelection in the Senate this year. Sadly, Fann did not respond to our survey despite repeated calls and emails. Fann began serving as the state Senate president in 2019. In that capacity, here's what the Arizona Capitol Times had to say about Fann on February 28, 2020 regarding two potential legalization bills in the legislature: "Two attempts were virtually marked dead on arrival when Bowers and Fann confirmed that they wouldn't hear any legislation to legalize recreational pot." There you have it...she simply won't hear any legislation to legalize recreational pot on the Senate floor. In fact, Fann publicly considers medical marijuana to be "just an excuse for drug-seekers to get a new high." In 2019, Attorney General Mark Brnovich stated that the legislature should take up the charge of legalization as opposed to the citizen's initiative process, here's what azfamily.com said on July 13, 2019 of Fann: "Senate President Karan Fann, a Republican from Prescott, said she did not want to comment on Brnovich's remarks. Fann has been an outspoken critic of marijuana in the past and confirmed that her views have not changed." Given Fann's lack of capacity to evolve relative to her views on cannabis, we'll be forced to change Fann's grade from 2018. Besides, she has refused to meet with us during Arizona NORML's last two lobby days.

**(D) Gilbert Carillo: I**

Carillo ran as a write-in candidate in the primary election for the Senate seat in LD1. He was able to advance to the general election. We could not find an email, campaign website or any further information on Carillo so we simply do not have enough information to grade him.

**State Senate District 02**

**(R) Mark Workman: C+**

[Workman](#) served 23 years in the US Air Force and is seeking public office for the first time in LD2. Workman responded to our survey with support of eliminating federal prohibition, support for the medical marijuana program, support for adult-use legalization in Arizona, support for children never being removed from parents due to the parental use of marijuana. However, Workman veers off course when he states that he is neutral toward working to ameliorate harsh non-violent marijuana offenses and that he doesn't support expungement for marijuana possession and use. While we love Workman's support of some rather major cannabis-related issues, we are troubled by his neutrality relative to draconian marijuana laws and his lack of support for expungement.

**(D) Rosanna Gabaldon: A**

[Gabaldon](#) has served in the House in LD2 since 2012. She is now running for the Senate seat in LD2. Gabaldon responded to our survey with strong support regarding our statements. This is not

surprising given her continuous backing of cannabis and cannabis-related issues. Gabaldon is always more than willing to meet with us and has been a supporter of myriad cannabis bills in the legislature. While she didn't provide us with a statement in 2020, we can certainly look to what Gabaldon told us in 2018: "Cannabis use is an issue that needs to be addressed in our state, and I would support legalizing recreational use. Arizona suffers from high incarceration rates, where non-violent offenders are jailed alongside violent offenders, which can lead to high recidivism rates. This places a burden on our law enforcement and a financial burden on our state."

### **State Senate District 03**

#### **(D) Sally Ann Gonzales: B+**

[Gonzales](#) represented LD3 in the House since winning election for the seat in 2010. She was then elected to the Senate for LD3 in 2018 and is running unopposed for the Senate in 2020. We spoke to Gonzales but she did not have time to respond to our survey. Gonzales has been a co-sponsor for many bills related to cannabis reform. She has been an ally in the legislature and we hope to continue our work with her moving forward.

### **State Senate District 04**

#### **(R) Travis Angry:**

[Angry](#) is a veteran who runs an inspirational youth outreach organization. Angry dropped out of the special election in Congressional District 8 that was held in 2018. He's back this year to challenge incumbent Senator Otondo for the Senate seat in LD4. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Angry did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, our research did not turn up anything on Angry and cannabis-related issues. Therefore, we are unable to provide a grade for him.

#### **(D) Lisa Otondo: A**

[Otondo](#) was first elected to a House seat in 2012 in LD4 and was reelected to the same seat in 2014. In 2016, she was elected to the Senate in LD4 and has maintained that seat until today. Otondo is seeking reelection this year for the same Senate seat. Despite our attempts to contact her, Otondo did not respond to our survey. However, she is an ally in the Senate and has filed bills in support of cannabis reform, adding autism spectrum disorder to the list of qualified conditions to the AMMA and hemp.

### **State Senate District 05**

#### **(R) Sonny Borrelli: B+**

[Borrelli](#) first won a House seat in LD5 in 2012 and won the same seat again in 2014. Borrelli then won the Senate seat in LD5 in 2016 and has maintained that seat until today. He is seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Borrelli did answer our volunteer call and said that he

opposes Prop 207 but is not hostile to medical marijuana. However, he did not respond to our survey. Here's what Arizona NORML had to say about Borrelli in our General Election Candidate Guide in 2018: "Despite a strong anti-legalization stance, Borrelli has emerged as a leading GOP reformer on medical cannabis issues, pushing through the 2018 hemp bill and working every year on an unsuccessful bill that would have established testing standards for the industry. Post primary, Sen. Borrelli has again confirmed that he is planning another robust reform agenda for improving the medical marijuana program and has bills in the works for the 2019 session."

Borrelli certainly was true to his word in 2019. He was the prime sponsor of SB1003 (which dealt with industrial hemp licensing), SB1024 (which dealt with the reporting of sales data by dispensaries), SB1137 (which dealt with medical marijuana and prohibited chemicals) and SB1138 (which sought to allow medical marijuana cards to last for two years and reduced the fees for the cards). Borrelli also co-sponsored HB2273 (which dealt with industrial hemp licensing) and SB1222 (which dealt with dispensary inspections). Borrelli came back in 2020 with similar bills relative to hemp and the medical marijuana program. While Borrelli is opposed to Prop 207, his work has been prolific in the Senate relative to hemp and medical marijuana.

## **State Senate District 06**

### **(R) Wendy Rogers: F**

[Rogers](#) is a retired veteran and business owner who first ran unsuccessfully in 2010 for a Senate seat in LD17. She returned in 2012 and 2014 to unsuccessfully run for United States Representative in Congress District 9. She then unsuccessfully ran for United States Representative in Congress District 1 in 2016 and 2018. Rogers is back this year for a run at the Senate seat in LD6. Rogers did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact her. Rogers responded to a question in VoteSmart asking if she supported the legalization of recreational marijuana. Rogers responded no and stated that it is a state issue. Ummm...MORE Act? Rogers also strongly disagreed to a statement in the ivoterguide asking if she supported the legalization of recreational marijuana. Lastly, in 2010, Rogers indicated in a Center for Arizona Policy candidate questionnaire that she opposed "[l]egalizing the use of marijuana for medical purposes." Opposition to the legalization of both adult-use and medical marijuana just doesn't sit well with us.

### **(D) Felicia French: B-**

[French](#) is a veteran who ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD6 in 2018. She's back this election cycle running for the Senate seat in LD6. French responded to our survey with neutrality regarding the elimination of federal prohibition and support of the medical marijuana program. She was supportive of the other five statements that we provided her. French elaborated on her position: "With regard to the question of expungement for possession, it will depend on the amount. However, on the matter of personal, adult use, it should not matter. Also, for small scale cultivation and sales, it depends on the definition of "small scale.""

## **State Senate District 07**

**(D) Jamescita Peshlakai: B**

[Peshlakai](#) first won a House seat in LD7 in 2012. She then ran unsuccessfully for the Senate seat in LD7 in 2014. Peshlakai returned in 2016 to win the Senate seat in LD7 and has held that seat until today. She is seeking reelection for the same Senate seat this year. Peshlakai did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to reach her. In 2018, here's what Arizona NORML had to say about Peshlakai in our General Election Candidate Guide: "Over the years, Peshlakai has signed on several bills but no leadership on the issue. In campaign rallies and forums, she has insisted she opposes overall legalization due to the history of addiction issues in tribal communities." In 2019, Peshlakai did co-sponsor two cannabis reform bills in the Senate. One was SB1284 which sought to decriminalize one ounce of marijuana or less to a civil penalty of a \$50 fine. The other was SB1479 which sought to add autism spectrum disorder to the list of qualifying conditions relative to the AMMA.

**State Senate District 08**

**(R) T.J. Shope: B**

[Shope](#) first won a House seat in LD8 in 2012 and has served in that position until this year. He is now running for the Senate seat in LD8 in 2020. Sadly, Shope did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact him. Shope has quietly supported cannabis reform and has even shown leadership on a few bills. Shope expressed his opinion about a potential ballot initiative in 2020 to azfamily.com on July 23, 2019: "[Rep. T.J. Shope](#), the speaker pro tempore, said legalization might be unavoidable given the shift in public attitudes about marijuana. For that reason, he said the Legislature might have no choice but to craft its own legislation to avoid unintended consequences from an industry-backed initiative. Shope said he's waiting to see if the initiative protects business owners and empowers law enforcement to handle situations like people driving under the influence of marijuana. "If those kinds of things aren't respected in an initiative, then we possibly will have to come in there and say, 'Look, this is a reason for us to get involved,'" Shope said."

Shope also participated in a Pinal Partnership LD-8 Debate on September 8, 2020. In this debate, Shope was asked if he supported Prop 207. Shope responded that he is not opposed to recreational marijuana for people over 21 but that he is opposed to the initiative. He stated that he believes that Prop 207 is poorly written and that propositions cannot be changed once passed. He also expressed concerns that if the proposition passes and the federal government ends prohibition, then the Arizona excise tax would be reduced and we would see diminishing returns. Shope then reemphasized that he is not opposed to legalization...that it is the right time and the right thing to do but that he still opposes Prop 207.



We certainly don't agree with some of Shope's sentiments but like the fact that he does support adult-use legalization in Arizona and has worked toward it in the legislature.

**(D) Barbara McGuire: A**

[McGuire](#) served two terms in the Senate from 2013-2017 in LD8 and served two terms in the House in LD-23. She's back in contention in 2020 for the Senate seat in LD8. McGuire responded to our survey by being in strong support of our seven statements. Clearly, she is an ally of cannabis and cannabis-related issues. To reinforce her position, McGuire stated that she would vote yes on Prop 207 because the majority of voters have spoken and they want this. McGuire made these comments in an LD-8 debate on September 8, 2020 sponsored by the Pinal Partnership.

**State Senate District 09**

**(D) Victoria Steele: A**

[Steele](#) is a two-time former state legislator who unsuccessfully ran for US Congress (District 2) in 2016. In 2016, Steele included cannabis reform as part of her congressional platform. She returned in 2018 to get elected to her current seat in the State Senate in LD9. Steele is running unopposed in the 2020 general election. Steele responded to our survey with overwhelming agreement to our seven questions and has been a supporter throughout her legislative career. On the Victoria Steele Show on KVOI Radio 1030 AM, Steele contributed to a discussion on draconian marijuana charges in Arizona with the following statement: "Arizona's harsh charges are counter to the public's desire to permit medical marijuana. "Marijuana is a medicine. We understand now that this truly does help people who are on chemotherapy, who are dealing with extreme pain. The voters put this through as Proposition 203 known as the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act, or AMMA in 2010. The voters overwhelmingly said 'we want this.'" Here's Steele in a 2018 interview with LD9's Pam Powers Hannley: "I was a drug and alcohol therapist at a rehab center for women. I never once saw anyone overdose on marijuana. But I do see our prisons filled with brown-skinned people on marijuana charges. Decriminalization will help the economy. We will regulate marijuana like alcohol and tobacco. It's a simple fix."

**State Senate District 10**

**(R) Justine Wadsack: A**

[Wadsack](#) is a real estate agent and business owner who responded to our survey offering strong support for all seven questions. Wadsack didn't stop there. She provided us with the following sentiments relative to each question as well:

1) "The medical benefits are clear that Marijuana/CBD helps people who are suffering from Epilepsy, PTSD, Anxiety, Diabetes, Pain, Cancer, Eating Disorders and more. It seems the only scientists who disagree are in some way affiliated with Big Pharma, as Marijuana/CBD is replacing many of the prescription drug needs that make bureaucrats a lot of money."

2) “I want to see a change in the Federal laws that currently prohibit a citizen's right to buy, own or carry a gun if they hold a Medical Marijuana Card, as there is no similar restriction on gun rights for those who drink alcohol or take prescription drugs. The 2nd Amendment must apply to people who hold their MMJ card too!!!”

3) “I support the "Medical Marijuana Program in Arizona". There are nearly 300,000 MMJ Cardholders in Arizona. This program should continue, but should also mean that when purchased for medical use, with the MMJ Card, it should be covered by Health Insurance, and/or the price should be reduced with lower taxes than the 16% excise tax applied to recreational purchases. Too many people need it, and can't afford it, so they continue to purchase street Marijuana, which can potentially be laced with life-threatening Opioids such as Fentanyl.”

4) “I support the "Legalization of Marijuana in Arizona initiative" as a PERSONAL CHOICE! Those who don't approve, don't have to purchase it. Those who would rather choose Marijuana over beer, should have the right to choose. It will bring Arizona a 16% excise tax (the same as cigarettes and alcohol). I would like to see the tax funding be dispersed between Police & Fire departments, DDD Caregiver Raises & Recruitment, New Mental Health Facilities, & Improvements to City Roads (Tucson needs this badly). In short, this would essentially impose the same rules, laws and consequences on someone who uses alcohol when it comes to advertising, packaging, workplace rules, driving/flying/boating, quality regulations, public restriction, cafe license, etc.”

5) “I am against the separation of parents from their children, period, as Parents Rights are paramount! Of course, that is unless the child is being physically or mentally abused or neglected, so this would be a case-by-case issue. There are parents who abuse drugs, and parents who choose Marijuana over alcohol. There are parents who are alcoholics, and parents who like a glass of wine after work. Parents must have a right to due process, and must be presumed innocent until proven guilty of any wrongdoing. Unfortunately, DCS will use this as an excuse to further abuse their power.”

6) “I am for Criminal Justice Reform. The punishment must fit the crime, and an arrest for Marijuana possession must be treated differently than an arrest for Fentanyl or Meth possession, as not all drug offenses should be Felonies. Our prisons are over-crowded, and community service can and should replace many of these tougher judgements. Again, this is a case-by-case issue, but it should be nothing more than a misdemeanor.”

7) “I believe when a citizen serves time in prison, they have "paid their debt to society". In any other instance, a paid debt means just that.. it's paid, and done. Those who serve their time, should have the records expunged so they can have an opportunity to enter back into society, vote, and obtain employment. I do NOT feel the same way about murderers or pedophiles, yet somehow, Marijuana offenses are grouped in the same category, and that's not right, in my opinion.”

**(D) Kirsten Engel: A**

[Engel](#) is an environmental lawyer, a public servant and an educator. She was elected to two terms in the House in LD10 in 2016 and 2018. She is now running for the Senate in LD10. Engel

responded to our survey and strongly supported all seven statements. Engel has been an ally in the legislature and is always more than willing to meet to discuss cannabis-related issues. An example of her legislative interest in cannabis reform is HB2178, a bill she sponsored in 2020 that sought to provide automatic expungement for marijuana possession. Here's what Engel had to tell us in the survey: "Too many lives have been ruined by the criminalization of the recreational use of marijuana. I support legalization and the expungement of the criminal records of those convicted of marijuana possession. We should legalize, tax and regulate recreational marijuana and ensure that persons from communities most harmed in the past by the criminalization of marijuana, communities of color, benefit economically from this legalization." We agree!

## **State Senate District 11**

### **(R) Vince Leach: F**

[Leach](#) first won a House seat in LD11 in 2014 and continued in that seat until 2018. In 2018, he was elected to the Senate in LD11 and is running for reelection for that seat this year. Leach did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts. Leach is notorious for producing anti-cannabis bills that generally go nowhere in the legislature. Here's what Arizona NORML had to say about him in our 2018 General Election Guide: "The most active prohibitionist in the state House over the last few years, Leach filed 6 anti-cannabis bills last session. Not looking forward to seeing him in the Senate." Leach has targeted medical marijuana patients who are on food stamps and on parole as well as wanting patients to fund a program to discourage drug use. Of course, Leach is publicly against Prop 207. Given his history of opposition in the legislature, we'll grade Leach accordingly.

### **(D) JoAnna Mendoza: A**

[Mendoza](#) is a native Arizonan who retired after a 20-year career in the both the US Navy and Marine Corps. Mendoza responded to our survey and was strongly supportive of six of the seven statements. She was just supportive of the legalization for adult-use in Arizona. We'll let Mendoza state her position: "I fully support medical marijuana use as there is substantial evidence to support its benefits. We also need to stop the cycle of criminalization and sending people to prison for long periods of time for minor marijuana possession charges. I am supportive of legalizing recreational marijuana use, with specific regulations, such as those included in the Smart and Safe Arizona ballot initiative. If passed, this initiative would allow individuals 21 and older to have as much as an ounce of marijuana and would tax marijuana sales similarly to alcohol and tobacco, with the funds raised from this tax being used primarily for funding community colleges and public safety. I'm also reassured by the fact that this initiative specifically prohibits the sale of any marijuana products that are marketed to children. If passed, this measure could generate significant revenue and help to reduce mass incarceration as a large percentage of our prison population is related to marijuana possession. If Prop 207 is passed, it's also important that we work to prevent recreational marijuana from being dominated by large corporations at the expense of small, local businesses. This will help to support the economic growth of our communities and ensure that recreational

marijuana is safe and affordable for Arizonans.” Great sentiment for the newcomer to state politics.

## **State Senate District 12**

### **(R) Warren Petersen: D-**

[Petersen](#) first won a House seat in LD12 in 2012 and then won the seat again in 2014. In 2016, Petersen won the Senate seat in LD12. He returned to the House in LD12 in 2018 and is now seeking the Senate seat in LD12 this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Petersen did not respond to our survey. In 2016, Petersen showed his disdain for patients by co-sponsoring HB2404 which sought to prevent SNAP recipients from being eligible for a reduced medical marijuana card fee. In 2018, Petersen told CAP that he opposes legalization. In 2020, Petersen has taken a public stance against Prop 207. Lastly, Petersen voted yes on the reprehensible bill HCR2045 in this year’s legislative session. That’s enough for us to establish a grade!

### **(D) Lynsey Robinson: A**

[Robinson](#) first ran unsuccessfully for a House seat in LD12 in 2018. She returns this year with a bid for the Senate seat in LD12. Although Robinson did not respond to our survey, we were pleased to find her thoughts on criminal justice reform in an interview with Blog for Arizona: “Private prisons should be disbanded. Marijuana should be legalized (although not allowed anywhere near schools or churches) and those imprisoned prior to legalization should be released and their sentences vacated before they are molded into “hardcore” criminals while incarcerated. Prisoners should be taught job skills and assisted in finding jobs where those talents can be utilized before they enter the cycles of poverty or repeat offenders. Non-violent prisoners need to stop being stigmatized as violent criminals.” We can certainly get behind Robinson’s sentiments!

## **State Senate District 13**

### **(R) Sine Kerr: D**

[Kerr](#) was a mid-term replacement in LD13 in January of 2018. She then won the seat outright in November of 2018 and is now seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Despite repeated

attempts at contact, Kerr did not respond to our survey. Here's what Kerr had to say to the publication French Toast relative to Prop 207: **“State Sen. Sine Kerr also wrote that she was “deeply saddened by the prospect of how this initiative would harm children.” “Kids would become easy prey for an industry hungry to create a new generation of users,” she added. “The industry will succeed in hooking too many of our kids and stealing their potential early.””** Would you like a little Reefer Madness sprinkled on your argument? Kerr is also in public opposition to Prop 207. Although Kerr did vote for a testing bill in 2018, we find her comments on legalization to be disturbing.

## State Senate District 14

### (R) David Gowan: C

[Gowan](#) served in the House in LD30 for two terms after first being elected in 2008. He then was elected to serve in the House in LD14 in 2012 and served two terms. In 2016, he unsuccessfully ran for District 1 in the US Congress. Gowan returned to win the Senate seat in 2018 in LD14 and is up for reelection for that seat this year. Gowan was unresponsive to numerous attempts to reach him regarding our survey. While Gowan deserves recognition for his sponsorship of SB1494 (the omnibus testing bill with 2 year mmj cards) that passed in 2019, he was still responsible for the “handcuff the industry” bills along with Senator Borrelli in 2019. However, he did sponsor SB1286 in 2019 which sought to give priority to rural areas with respect to dispensaries.

### (D) Bob Karp: A-

[Karp](#) ran unsuccessfully for the House in LD14 in 2018 and is back in 2020 with a run at the Senate. Karp responded to our survey and was strongly supportive of the medical marijuana program, eliminating federal prohibition, legalizing for adult-use in Arizona and working to reduce harsh sentences for non-violent marijuana offenses. Karp was supportive of understanding the science behind medical marijuana, children never being removed from a parent over marijuana use and expungement. He addressed his concerns relative to expungement with this comment: “On the immediate above - expungement of convictions of small amounts possession or use. I would want to see the circumstances of convictions for sale to see if other drugs were involved as well.”

Here's Karp's response to an Arizona Republic questionnaire from this year:

Do you support legalizing marijuana for recreational use by adults?

“Yes. I would prefer to do it through legislation rather than by initiative. My concern is licensing. It seems that the ballot proposition cements in control of licenses by large corporate interests rather than opening the industry to a wide variety of small businesses. Also, by doing it through

legislation, it is easier to come back in future years to make changes based on implementation over time.”

## **State Senate District 15**

**(R) Nancy Barto: F**

[Barto](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD7 in 2008. In 2010, Barto was elected to the Senate in LD7. She moved over to the Senate in LD15 in 2012 and maintained that seat until being elected to a House seat in LD15 in 2018. Barto is back challenging for the Senate seat this year in LD15. Despite myriad attempts to contact her, Barto did not respond to our survey. In the ivoterguide, Barto strongly disagreed with the legalization of recreational marijuana. Barto has also been quoted as saying: “If we're serious about preventing youth suicide and mental illness, we should be warning them about the cannabis link. It's real. It's deadly.” If that’s not enough to trouble you, here’s what Arizona NORML had to say about Barton in 2018:

“Continuing to be a font of misinformation, Barto needs to be reeducated due to beliefs rooted in propaganda. Blocked key reform votes and promoted misinformation during opioid discussions. Consider this reply to AZ Central: “No. Arizona’s medical marijuana law has already proliferated marijuana use by far more people than most voters intended. Most who voted for the measure envisioned helping vulnerable cancer patients but its lax rules far more often accommodate cardholders between 18-35 with “chronic pain.” It also sent the message to teens that marijuana is harmless. It’s not and its potency is exponentially higher than in the 70’s (3% vs 15-80% in todays depending if it is smoked, eaten or vaped). Legalized recreational marijuana has increased addiction, compromise a person’s judgment and increases serious auto injuries and death. With all of our concerns about students’ mental health and academic achievement, we should listen when studies link marijuana use to lower academic achievement and motivation, increased risk of psychotic symptoms and schizophrenia-like psychoses and increased testicular cancer. The dangers and unintended consequences of legalizing pot far outweigh any public benefit.”

And for the icing on the cake, Barto is in public opposition to Prop 207.

We’ll order some extra sets of pearls for Barto to clutch and grade her accordingly!

## **State Senate District 16**

**(R) Kelly Townsend: F**

[Townsend](#) first won a House seat in LD16 in 2012 and has held the seat until today. She is now running for the Senate seat in LD16 in 2020. Unfortunately, Townsend did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts at contact. In 2016, Townsend sponsored HB2061 which sought to make it a crime for a pregnant woman to consume medical marijuana. Townsend even went further by allowing the bill to override a physician’s finding that marijuana would be appropriate for a pregnant patient. Due to legal issues, this bill was watered down to creating signage in dispensaries with pregnancy warnings. In 2018, Arizona NORML wrote this about Townsend: A

leading source of misinformation and opposition, Majority Whip Townsend is the bitterest prohibitionist at the capitol.

### **State Senate District 17**

#### **(R) J.D. Mesnard: F**

[Mesnard](#) first won a House seat in 2010 in LD21. He then won a House seat in LD17 in 2012 and remained in that position until he was elected to the Senate seat in LD17 in 2018. He is seeking reelection this year for that same Senate seat in LD17. Despite repeated contacts, Mesnard did not respond to our survey. In 2016, Mesnard was instrumental in creating four bills that sought to thwart the Voter Protection Act in an effort to prevent any initiative relative to legalization from becoming law. In 2018, Arizona NORML had this to say about Mesnard: “As speaker of the House, Mesnard torpedoed at least a dozen reform bills during his tenure.” Mesnard was one of many politicians who signed on to an opposition letter to Prop 205 (the legalization initiative in 2016) that was printed in EastValley.com on October 8, 2016. With resistance in the legislature and public opposition to legalization, Mesnard certainly isn’t good for cannabis.

#### **(D) Ajlan Kurdoglu: I**

[Kurdoglu](#) is a furniture store owner running for the first time for the Senate seat in LD17. He told our volunteer that he would respond to the survey but never did despite phone and email contact. Unfortunately, our research found nothing substantial relative to Kurdoglu and cannabis-related issues. The SanTan Sun News did report that Kurdoglu has amassed funding from “Henry Van Amerigen, a New York City real estate developer and philanthropist who donates heavily to candidates favoring legalized marijuana and LGBTQ rights...” While that sounds promising, we simply don’t have enough tangible information to grade Kurdoglu.

### **State Senate District 18**

#### **Suzanne Sharer: F**

[Sharer](#) has a background in real estate and is running for the Senate seat in LD18 for the first time in 2020. We reached out to Sharer myriad times via phone and emails but she did not respond to our survey. We couldn’t find much on her in our research but did find an LD18 AZCCEC debate on August 26, 2020 where each candidate was asked about their support of Prop 207. Sharer responded by stating that she doesn’t want to tell people how to live their lives. She felt that any effort at legalization should be done through the legislature. Sharer felt that the legislature can listen to constituents and make changes accordingly. Sharer then stated that the initiative is written poorly and that cartels will be moving into neighborhoods for home grow and that there will be products looking like candy. She further stated that the strength of marijuana today is not what our parents smoked at Woodstock. In the midst of all this Reefer Madness, Sharer did say that

something needs to be done about people getting in trouble over a small amount of pot. She then went back to the darkness by claiming that marijuana will be sold in vending machines and will be more prevalent in our society. Lastly, Sharer stated that there will be more mental health issues with legalization.

As for the icing on her less than supportive cake, Sharer was then asked if she ever consumed weed. She laughed before answering and then exclaimed, “When I was a stupid 16 year-old!”

Sorry, but we don’t consider 230,000 patients in the state of Arizona to be “stupid.” There’s just too much prohibitionist rhetoric here to ignore.

#### **(D) Sean Bowie: C-**

[Bowie](#) first won the Senate seat in LD18 in 2016 and has maintained the seat until today. He is seeking reelection for the same seat this year. Bowie did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts at contact. Bowie participated in an LD18 General Election Candidate debate sponsored by the AZCCEC on August 26, 2020. In that debate, Bowie was asked about Prop 207. Bowie stated that he was conflicted over this initiative and that he opposed the 2016 initiative because it was badly worded. Bowie claimed that he was worried about teenagers using marijuana and that if you legalize something, it will make more people have access to it. He continued that he has read some disturbing science around teenagers and brain development. Bowie did concede that the revenue is going to areas where we need it such as public safety and HURF. However, Bowie then said that he is concerned about the oligopoly and reiterated that he doesn’t know how he’ll vote. When asked if he has ever ingested weed, Bowie responded yes but that it was a very long time ago.

Here’s what Arizona NORML had to say about Bowie in our 2018 General Election Candidate Guide: “Consistently avoids the topic, Bowie claims his district is too conservative to discuss it.” Lastly, in his last two years in the Senate, Bowie has not sponsored or co-sponsored any cannabis reform bills.

#### **State Senate District 19**

##### **(D) Lupe Contreras: A**

[Contreras](#) first won a House seat in LD19 in 2012. He moved over to the Senate in LD19 in 2014 and has held that seat since then. Contreras responded to our survey with strong support for all seven of our statements. This was predictable in that Contreras has provided strong and steady support for cannabis reform in the legislature during his tenure there.

#### **State Senate District 20**



**(R) Paul Boyer: F**

[Boyer](#) was first elected to a House seat in 2012 in LD20 and held that seat until winning the Senate seat in LD20 in 2018. Boyer is seeking reelection this year for the same Senate seat. Boyer did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact him. We'll start with what Arizona NORML had to say about Boyer in our 2018 General Election Candidate Guide: "Leader in the prohibitionist community, Boyer was a key part of the 2016 no-vote campaign. Usually the most guaranteed no vote in the legislature." Boyer has penned anti-legalization op-eds in both 2015 and 2016 and was vocal in his opposition to Prop 205 in 2016. In 2017, Boyer stated that "[m]arijuana is not the answer to opioids." Unfortunately, this statement contradicts data that shows decreased prescriptions for opioids in states where medical marijuana is legal. In 2018, Boyer stated that "marijuana harms the developing adolescent brain in particular..." In December of 2019 Boyer quoted an article on Twitter stating that "marijuana-induced psychosis" happens "on a regular basis" now." Lastly, Boyer has come out in public opposition to Prop 207 as well.

**(D) Douglas Ervin: I**

[Ervin](#) is a retired accountant and community volunteer who first ran for the Senate seat in LD20 in 2018 but lost in the general election. He's back for another shot at the same seat this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Ervin did not respond to our survey. Sadly, we couldn't find anything on Ervin in our research in 2018 and had the same difficulty this year. We just don't have enough information to grade Ervin.

**State Senate District 21**

**(R) Rick Gray: D**

[Gray](#) first won a House seat in LD9 in 2010. He then won the House seat in LD-21 in 2012 and held the seat for 2 terms before unsuccessfully running for Arizona Corporation Commission in 2016. Gray returned in 2018 to win the Senate seat in LD21 in 2018 and is seeking reelection for that seat this year. Gray did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact him by phone and email. Gray is one of several lawmakers who have publicly opposed Prop 207. Here's what Gray had to say to the Sun City Independent on February 5, 2020:

"If you look at the studies in Colorado that were done to find the impact on that state after marijuana was legalized for recreational use you will see that it had a very detrimental effect," Mr. Gray stated. "And it didn't generate the revenue the proponents promised.

He added there is strong evidence there are some medical benefits from marijuana. He stated District 21 Rep. Kevin Payne (R-Peoria) is looking at running a bill that would enable researchers to do more work to study the benefits so its use can be maximized for those it can help.

“But the negative impact of recreational marijuana is something every person should be concerned about, Mr. Gray stated.

He suggested residents read Alex Berensen’s book “Tell Your Children.”

Is Gray in a book club with Representative Bowers? Peddling Berensen’s debunked drivel doesn’t impress us but we are thankful to see that Gray does realize that there are some medical benefits from marijuana.

## **State Senate District 22**

### **(R) David Livingston: C**

[Livingston](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD22 in 2012 and maintained the seat until 2018 when he was elected to the Senate seat in LD22. He is seeking reelection to the same Senate seat this year. Livingston did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact him. In 2016, Livingston was opposed to the initiative to legalize adult-use in Arizona as stated in an Arizona Trucking Association survey. However, according to iVoterGuide, Livingston is now neutral relative to his support of the legalization of marijuana. There’s certainly some growth there from opposition to neutrality. Livingston was helpful with a testing bill in 2018 as well.

### **(D) Sarah Tyree: A**

[Tyree](#), a veteran, was the first to respond to our candidate survey and certainly didn’t disappoint with her ideas relative to cannabis. She strongly agreed with all seven statements in our survey demonstrating her clear support regarding cannabis-related issues. Here’s Tyree in her own words with respect to cannabis: “I have been an advocate for legalization for a while now and have even been able to convert my running mate Kathleen Honne! We had Mikel Weisser on one of our Donuts and Dish Sessions and she was able to really educate herself on the pros to the initiative. My only concern, is that I want to ensure that we are creating space and avenues for small businesses owned by people of color to flourish, rather than continuing to put money in the pockets of large corporations owned by the same people who want to keep communities of color in jail. I support the Safe and Smart Act and would love to not only bring on more people of color and veterans, but become one of the leading legislative advocates for its legalization!”

## **State Senate District 23**

### **(R) Michelle Ugenti-Rita: D**

[Ugenti-Rita](#) first won a House seat in 2010 in LD8. In 2012, she won a House seat in LD23 and maintained that seat until being elected into the Senate in LD23 in 2018. She is now seeking reelection for that Senate seat in LD23. We spoke with Ugenti-Rita but she never responded to our survey despite repeated contacts. In 2018, Arizona NORML said this about Ugenti-Rita: “A

steady NO vote on cannabis reform, prior to breakthrough votes on Hemp and Testing this year, Ugenti-Rita was also a NO on legalization when polled by CAP.”

**(D) Seth Blattman: I**

[Blattman](#) is running for the Senate seat in LD23 for the first time this year. Despite repeated contacts, Blattman did not respond to our survey. Unfortunately, we were unable to find any information on Blattman and cannabis-related issues. Therefore, we are unable to grade him.

**State Senate District 24**

**(R) Ray Michaels: D-**

[Michaels](#) ran as a write-in candidate in the 2020 primary for the Senate seat in LD24. He advanced to the general election to face incumbent Senator Alston. Michaels did not respond to our survey despite repeated contacts. In the ivoterguide, Michaels strongly disagreed with supporting the legalization of recreational marijuana. Since Michaels didn’t respond to our survey to elucidate on his positions, we’re forced to grade him on his strong opposition to legalization.

**(D) Lela Alston: B+**

[Alston](#) has served many years in the Arizona legislature. She served in the Arizona Senate from 1976 to 1995. She later served in the House in LD24 from 2011-2019. She was then elected to the Senate in LD24 in 2018. Alston has also served on the Phoenix Union High School District Governing Board since 2008. Alston is seeking reelection for her Senate seat in LD24 this year. Alston responded to our survey and did not support the legalization of adult-use in Arizona. She was neutral relative to an understanding of the science behind medical marijuana and supporting the elimination of federal prohibition. Alston was supportive of not having children removed from a parent due to cannabis use. She was strongly supportive of the medical marijuana program, working to reduce drastic penalties for non-violent marijuana offenses and expungement of records on marijuana possession or use. Alston provided us with this quote as well: “I do support decriminalizing marijuana use and legalizing medical marijuana at the federal level.” Alston has also co-sponsored a couple of cannabis reform bills including SB1372 which sought to decriminalize 5 grams of marijuana or less and SB1479 which sought to add autism spectrum disorder to the list of qualifying conditions to the AMMA.

**State Senate District 25**

**(R) Tyler Pace: C**

[Pace](#) was first elected to the Senate seat in LD25 in 2018. He returns for reelection to that seat this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Pace did not respond to our survey. Here's what the Tucson Weekly had to say about Pace on January 23, 2020: "Senator Tyler Pace (R) seeks to simplify Arizona's rambling drug statutes, which include more than 200 classifications of drugs. Pace's SB1095 would define cannabis as "marijuana" but last year's concentrate case cleared up the commotion concerning conflation." That's a start!

**(D) Paul Weigel: A**

[Weigel](#) is running for the first time in LD25 for the Senate seat. Weigel responded to our survey with resoundingly strong support for all seven of our statements. If that wasn't enough, Weigel simply stated: "Marijuana should be legal. Full stop." In an LD25 debate on August 20, 2020 sponsored by the AZCCEC, Weigel stated that he has used marijuana because he had cancer. He emphatically said that medical marijuana was a game changer for him. Weigel was adamant that marijuana is not a gateway drug and that legalization would give us the opportunity to regulate and ensure the effective use of the plant. Finally, Weigel was ecstatic about the revenue opportunities that could be generated by legalized marijuana.

**State Senate District 26**

**(R) Jae Chin: I**

[Chin](#) is a small business owner running for the Senate seat in LD26 for the first time this year. Despite phone calls and emails, Chin did not respond to our survey. Extensive research failed to generate information on Chin and cannabis-related issues. Therefore, we simply don't have enough data to grade Chin at this time.

**(D) Juan Mendez: A**

[Mendez](#) was first elected to a House seat in LD26 in 2012 and was reelected to that seat in 2014. Mendez then switched to the Senate in LD26 in the 2016 election and has maintained that Senate seat until today. He is seeking reelection for that same seat this year. Mendez did not respond to our survey but has been a leader in Arizona legislative cannabis reform by filing and backing cannabis-related bills for years. We'll let Mendez tell you in his own words his position relative to Cannabis from 2018 with AZ Central: "The sky never fell in any of the states that have legalized cannabis (weed), most problems are with where to put all the money and being able to scale up production. The drug war is racist and works better as a means to lock up people of color than to address drug availability and usage. Prohibition only pushes the economy underground. Cartels reap untold profits. Arizona gives millions of dollars to private prisons to lock up thousands of us

for mostly non-violent offenses. We end up spending more on police and prisons than on vital public services. Just for a few to impose righteous punishment on a personal choice. I've introduced legislation in the past to end the prohibition of cannabis and will continue to support efforts in the future."

### **State Senate District 27**

#### **(R) Garland Shreves: A**

[Shreves](#) is a business owner and works for a government agency. His responses to our survey were in strong support of six of our seven statements but he remained neutral regarding understanding the science behind medical marijuana. We will certainly reach out to Mr. Shreves to discuss the science to get him up to speed. According to his campaign website, Shreves is a proponent of criminal justice reform. Here's a quote that seems to encapsulate his thinking: "Instead of locking everyone up to garner public safety, let us focus on ensuring everyone is provided with the tools and training to become self-sufficient and self-reliant. Let me work as you Senator to effectuate Criminal Justice Reform by empowering and lifting people up. Let us work together to find a new way to solve an age old problem."

#### **(D) Rebecca Rios: A**

[Rios](#) has been a representative in the house prior to winning the senate seat in LD27 in 2018. She has been a supporter in her elected positions and has co-sponsored myriad cannabis-related bills in the past. Not surprisingly, Rios's responses to our survey were in strong support of every statement that we posed. Relative to cannabis, Rios wrote in 2018: "very familiar with cannabis personally – strongly supports federal government policy – strongly supports Arizona's MMJ Program – will advocate for reducing AZ Criminal Penalties if elected – strongly supports state and federal legalization/decriminalization." Rios was also a co-sponsor of SB1284 in 2019 which sought to create a civil penalty of \$50 for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

### **State Senate District 28**

#### **(R) Kate Brophy McGee: C-**

[McGee](#) served on the Washington Elementary School District Governing Board from 1999 to 2007. Brophy McGee won a House seat in LD11 in 2010 and then won the House seat in LD28 in 2012 and 2014. In 2016, she won the Senate seat in LD28 and has maintained that seat until today. Brophy McGee is seeking reelection for the same Senate seat this year. Brophy McGee did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts to contact her. In 2016, Cannabis Dispensary featured an article on Brophy McGee on February 19 which discussed her attempts to ban EBT cards for medical marijuana: “In Arizona, people can use their EBT cards to purchase many basic necessities; including meat, bread, milk and prescriptions. But what’s the answer when it comes to medical marijuana? Under current law, recipients are not allowed to use their EBT cards in liquor stores, casinos or strip clubs. Rep. Kate Brophy McGee (R-Phoenix) wants to add medical marijuana dispensaries to the list by amending House Bill 2261. “I just don’t think that taxpayer funds should be used for that purpose,” she said.” However, when the legislature was considering a bill to fund anti-marijuana research, she moved to allow some funds to be used for determining “the safety, efficacy and adverse events associated with marijuana.” Brophy McGee has avoided being a prime or co-sponsor of any cannabis reform bills in the last two legislative sessions and her office actually asked us to stop calling when we were trying to set up an appointment with her earlier this year.

**(D) Christine Marsh: C**

[Marsh](#) is a former teacher who first ran for the Senate in LD28 in 2018 and is back for another go at the seat this year. Despite repeated attempts to contact her, Marsh did not respond to our survey. Sadly, we were unable to find anything new on Marsh and cannabis with respect to our research so we’ll rely on our 2018 General Election Guide to grade her. In 2018, Marsh answered AZ Central’s question on legalization by stating that she is not in favor of legalization but supports decriminalization.

**State Senate District 29**

**(R) John Wilson: A**

Wilson ran unsuccessfully for the House in LD29 in 2016. He returns this year seeking the Senate seat in LD29. In response to our survey, Wilson was neutral about knowing the science behind marijuana (no big deal, we can educate him) and was supportive of expungement. He was strongly supportive of the other five statements. Wilson provided us with this comment as well: “As a free people, it’s our responsibility to choose wisely.” We wisely think that Wilson will be an ally if elected!

**(D) Martin Quezada: A**

[Quezada](#) is a lawyer by trade and has served in the house as well as on the Governing Board of the Pendergast Elementary School District. He has been a state senator since 2014. Quezada endorsed Prop 205 (the initiative to legalize adult-use cannabis) in 2016. Quezada responded to our survey

and his responses reflected his continuing support of cannabis and cannabis-related issues through his strong support of 5 of the 7 statements. Quezada was supportive of the medical marijuana program and not having children removed from a parent over marijuana use. In 2018, Quezada made this statement regarding his position on cannabis to Arizona NORML: “somewhat familiar with cannabis personally - strongly opposes federal government policy - strongly supports Arizona’s MMJ Program - will advocate for reducing AZ Criminal Penalties if elected - strongly supports state and federal legalization/decriminalization.” Additional Comments: “I support the legalization of cannabis. I am also realistic about needing a long-term strategy to move the political needle to get there in order to get public and political buy-in. I am committed to working on ways to accomplish that.” Quezada had it right in 2018! Quezada was also a co-sponsor of SB1284 in 2019 which attempted to create a civil penalty of \$50 for less than an ounce of marijuana.

### **State Senate District 30**

#### **(D) Tony Navarrete: A**

[Navarrete](#) first won a House seat in LD30 in 2016. He proceeded to win the Senate seat in LD30 in 2018 and has maintained that seat until today. He is seeking reelection in the Senate in LD30 this year. Navarrete did not respond to our survey despite our many attempts to contact him. Navarrete has co-sponsored many cannabis reform bills during his tenure in the Senate including decriminalization (working with a bi-partisan group in the legislature in 2019) and lowering medical marijuana card costs.

### **Arizona Corporation Commission**

#### **(R) Eric Sloan: I**

[Sloan](#) is a small business owner who ran unsuccessfully for the Arizona Corporation Commission in 2018 and is back for another shot at the position this year. Despite repeated attempts at contact, Sloan did not respond to our survey. We researched Sloan but could not find anything relative to him and cannabis-related issues. Therefore, we simply don’t have enough information to grade him.

#### **(R) Lea Márquez Peterson: F**

[Márquez Peterson](#) ran unsuccessfully for Congress District 2 in 2018. She returns this year for a run at a spot on the Arizona Corporation Commission. Márquez Peterson did not respond to our survey despite repeated attempts at contact. As president of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Márquez Peterson was featured in a KOLD News 13 story in September of 2016 regarding the initiative to legalize that year: “But in Tucson, president of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Lea Marquez-Peterson said the group opposes the initiative and said

THCC recently began working with [Arizonans for Responsible Drug Policy \(ARDP\)](#) in an effort to educate the community about their concerns. In a recent newsletter, THCC said legalizing marijuana for retail sale and recreational use "is not a simple social issue." Marquez-Peterson said business owners are concerned with the inability to have a drug-free work place. "Either they're concerned about safety, and having that drug-free workplace or they're speaking to their attorneys trying to figure out, what are the ramifications that someone comes to work stoned or has traces of marijuana in their system, what do I do?," said Marquez-Peterson. "It's very gray, so this is not a good direction for the state of Arizona."

Marquez Peterson told the Arizona Daily Independent in January of 2016 that "We believe that our State's efforts to curb substance abuse and addiction in our workplaces, health care, education, and public safety institutions will be negatively impacted by this initiative." Clearly, Márquez Peterson might benefit from some reprogramming relative to cannabis.

**(R) James O'Connor: D-**

[O'Connor](#) first ran unsuccessfully for the Arizona Corporation Commission in 2018. He returned as a write-in candidate in the 2020 primary and was able to advance to the general election this November. O'Connor did not respond to our survey despite our attempts to contact him. In the ivoterguide, O'Connor was in strong disagreement when asked if he supported the legalization of recreational marijuana. Without his response to our survey for clarity and given his strong opposition to legalization, we're forced to grade O'Connor accordingly.

**(D) Anna Tovar: B**

[Tovar](#) has a storied and interesting history in Arizona politics. She served on the Tolleson City Council for 7 ½ years. She was first appointed to a House seat in LD13 in 2009. She then won that seat in 2010. In 2012, she won a Senate seat in LD19. She did not seek reelection in 2014. In 2016, Tovar was elected Mayor of the City of Tolleson. She resigned that position in 2020 to run for the Arizona Corporation Commission. Tovar responded to our survey and was neutral on eliminating the federal prohibition of marijuana. She was supportive of our other six statements. Tovar added this: "I continue to listen and learn from Arizonans about this issue." We have to respect Tovar for her willingness to be educated and to listen to fellow Arizonans relative to cannabis.

**(D) Shea Stanfield: I**

[Stanfield](#) had a 40-year career in teaching and counseling. This is her first run at a position on the Arizona Corporation Commission. Unfortunately, we were unable to get Stanfield to respond to our survey. We researched Stanfield but could not find anything on her and cannabis-related issues. Therefore, we simply don't have enough information to grade her.



**(D) William Mundell: B**

[Mundell](#) was the presiding judge in Chandler Municipal Court from 1980 to 1986. In 1986, he won a seat in the Arizona House of Representatives and served there until 1992. Mundell was appointed to the Arizona Corporation Commission in 1999 and then won election to the Commission in 2000 and to a second term in 2004. He's running again for the Commission this year. Despite phone and email contacts, Mundell did not respond to our survey. In the past, Mundell has spoken in favor of the medical marijuana program and supported Prop 205 in 2016.