

Candidate: Monica Alponte
Libertarian US House
Arizona District 1

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Arizona Candidate Questionnaire: Community Stability, Rehabilitation & Public Safety

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING STABILITY

What statewide strategies do you support to reduce homelessness in Arizona?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

I support existing programs in Arizona, like emergency shelters, homelessness prevention, street outreach, and Rapid Rehousing through the Department of Economic Security (DES) and its local nonprofit and government partners. I also support removing regulatory barriers and building codes that restrict affordable housing development through the free market by making housing more expensive and difficult to develop. This would reduce unnecessary restrictions so private developers, charities, and community groups can build more affordable housing and temporary places for people to stay while they get back on their feet.

How would you expand access to affordable and transitional housing across both urban and rural counties?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

I would work with Arizona's governor, state legislators, county and city officials, and local nonprofits to identify barriers and encourage local solutions in both urban and rural communities. I would advocate for lower property taxes and the elimination of unnecessary zoning restrictions to give private developers and charities more freedom to expand transitional housing. In urban areas, this could help increase housing options where costs are high. In rural areas, it could make it easier to develop housing where options and resources are limited. At the federal level, I would work to cut red tape in federal housing programs that makes it harder for local organizations to help people find housing.

What role should the state play in coordinating homelessness services across cities, counties, and tribal communities?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

The state's role should be minimized to removing bureaucratic red tape so local community organizations can coordinate directly. Government bureaucracy gets in the way; corruption, lack of transparency and accountability overwhelm community organizations with paperwork, red tape, and delays. Local communities, including churches, charities, nonprofits, and tribal nations, should be free to work directly with one another and partner with the state when it benefits their communities, without being dependent on or controlled by the state. Remove barriers, don't block help.



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How will you ensure that housing solutions are accessible to individuals with low income, addiction history, or justice involvement?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

As a U.S. Representative in Congress, my role is at the federal level, so I cannot ensure state or local housing decisions. I will have the ability to write and amend federal laws, oversee federal agencies, and help decide how federal funding is used, including federal programs affecting tribal nations, while respecting tribal sovereignty and self-government. I support enforcing existing federal fair housing laws while protecting private property rights and respecting local control over zoning. I will work to reduce unnecessary federal regulations that drive up housing costs and remove federal barriers that prevent private recovery ministries from offering transitional shelter.

ADDICTION, RECOVERY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Do you support shifting Arizona's approach from punishment to treatment for addiction related offenses?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

Being addicted to drugs cannot be criminalized under the Eighth Amendment. However, drug possession does not automatically mean a person is addicted, and addiction should not be assumed simply because someone uses drugs.

Criminal acts must still be punished, whether or not addiction is involved. For example, driving under the influence and injuring or killing someone, stealing to pay for drugs, or assaulting someone while under the influence are crimes that should remain subject to criminal penalties.

What investments or reforms would you prioritize to expand access to detox, treatment, and long-term recovery programs?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

As a U.S. representative, I have no authority at the state or local level for treatment programs. I would focus on reducing government barriers without expanding government spending or bureaucracy:

- Cut unnecessary federal regulations and red tape that make it harder for treatment providers to operate.
- Simplify federal paperwork and reporting requirements.
- Streamline federal rules so it is easier for people to access addiction treatment.



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How would you improve access to behavioral health services for uninsured or underinsured Arizonans?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

As a U.S. representative, I have no authority over state or local behavioral-health services or insurance regulations. At the federal level, I would support making it easier for people to buy health insurance from companies in other states, giving them more choices and a better chance of finding affordable coverage. I would also work to cut unnecessary federal paperwork for providers. This would make it easier for people to get care through telehealth to access addiction counseling, therapy, and consultations about medication without having to travel to a clinic. This can be especially helpful for people in rural areas or those without transportation.

Do you support expanding mobile crisis teams or non-law enforcement responses for mental health and addiction emergencies?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

Yes. Mobile crisis teams are better suited to handling personal crises than armed law enforcement when no weapons are involved and there is no immediate threat of violence. Police officers lack the specialized training needed to handle mental-health and addiction emergencies. There are many documented cases of officers mistaking a person's behavior during a mental-health crisis for a threat and fatally shooting them. Local communities, charities, and trained crisis responders can provide help in a less intimidating environment.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, REHABILITATION & FAIRNESS

What reforms would you support to reduce incarceration for low-level, nonviolent, addiction related offenses?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

I would support expanding drug diversion programs that give people charged with low-level, nonviolent drug offenses the opportunity to complete requirements such as community service, drug education, or treatment when appropriate, as alternatives to incarceration. I would also support ending mandatory minimum sentences for victimless crimes and giving judges more discretion in sentencing.

How will you address financial barriers in the justice system, such as cash bail, fines, and fees, that disproportionately affect low-income residents?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

As a U.S. representative, I have no authority over Arizona’s state and local court fees, fines, or cash bail policies. Federal law already requires the court to consider a person’s ability to pay and they cannot impose a bail or bond so high that the person is detained because they cannot afford to pay. I would support legislation strengthening and enforcing these protections.



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Do you support expanding diversion programs, drug courts, and community-based rehabilitation as alternatives to prison?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

Yes, I support expanding diversion programs, drug courts, and community-based rehabilitation as alternatives to prison for nonviolent offenses. Local communities, charities, and peer-support programs can help people take responsibility, recover, and rebuild their lives without unnecessary incarceration. Rehabilitation rather than institutional isolation.

What steps would you take to improve reentry services, job training, and housing support for individuals leaving incarceration?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

As a U.S. representative, I have no authority over Arizona's state and local occupational licensing requirements or housing policies. At the federal level I would sponsor or support legislation to remove unnecessary federal barriers to employment, like the SHARE Act of 2026 (H.R. 2332), which addresses the use of federal criminal-history records in state occupational licensing. I would also support federal tax incentives for employers who hire formerly incarcerated individuals, like the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC).

COMMUNITY SAFETY & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

How will you strengthen partnerships with nonprofits, recovery centers, and community organizations already serving vulnerable populations?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

On the federal level, I will support cutting unnecessary federal regulations that interfere with the work of nonprofits, recovery centers, and community organizations, including those serving people experiencing homelessness, veterans, and individuals recovering from addiction. I will explore legislation to improve regulatory transparency and reduce unnecessary compliance burdens, like the "Prove It Act of 2025" (H.R. 1163); and the "Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act" (H.R. 421 / S. 5178). I will encourage private charitable giving and explore tax relief legislation, like the "Charitable Act (H.R. 801 / S. 317)," which would allow more taxpayers to deduct charitable donations without itemizing. I will work to remove government barriers without expanding unnecessary bureaucracy.



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What is your plan to expand mental health infrastructure to reduce strain on emergency rooms, jails, and law enforcement?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

As a U.S. representative, I have no authority over Arizona's state and local mental-health infrastructure. On the federal level, I plan to work on legislation to cut the federal red tape that blocks private clinics, outpatient treatment centers, and crisis facilities from opening and expanding. For example, clinics must manage complex federal systems to stay in compliance with HIPAA and 42 CFR Part 2, which enforce heavy restrictions on substance use disorder records.

I also plan to support legislation that makes it easier to set up mental-health treatment spaces inside federal prisons, VA medical centers, and military facilities to improve access to care for people in federal custody, veterans, and service members. This allows facilities to expand without bureaucratic control.

How will you support youth in foster care, group homes, or unstable housing to prevent future homelessness and justice involvement?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

As a U.S. representative, I have no direct authority over Arizona's state foster care system or local housing policies. On the federal level, I will support legislation to cut unnecessary bureaucratic red tape and federal mandates that restrict foster care, adoption, and community-based organizations. Reducing these barriers can help young people move more quickly from unstable group settings into safe, stable, permanent family homes, reducing their risk of future homelessness and involvement with the justice system.

GOVERNANCE, FUNDING & ACCOUNTABILITY

How will you ensure transparency and accountability in how state funds for homelessness, behavioral health, and rehabilitation are allocated?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

As a U.S. representative, I have no authority over Arizona's state budget or how state money is spent. On the federal level, I will only support sending federal money to states with total public transparency, like requiring itemized receipts and independent audits to prevent fraud. I will work to make sure any federal funds are tracked on an open, public website with no hidden administrative costs or bureaucratic loopholes so taxpayers can follow every single dollar.

What metrics will you use to measure whether your policies are effectively improving community stability and reducing homelessness?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

As a U.S. representative, I don't have the authority to gather data from police departments, county hospitals, or state agencies. Arizona state and local agencies own and manage that process. But on a federal level, I plan to track publicly reported data—and confer with Arizona's senators and local officials—to monitor regional homelessness numbers, stable housing placements, and long-term recovery outcomes. I will also measure progress by tracking the reduction of federal regulations to ensure private and community organizations are actually freed up to help more people without bureaucratic interference.



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How will you work across party lines to pass legislation that benefits all Arizonans, regardless of income, background, or county?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

As a Libertarian, I can approach issues objectively rather than as part of either political side. I plan to work in a "tri-partisan" fashion, bridging the gap between Republicans and Democrats to find common ground. I put cooperation ahead of party politics and will work with anyone willing to compromise and meet halfway to get things done for Arizonans. If we can't find common ground at the negotiating table, we can take it to the golf course! Long hours won't be a problem. I'm willing to get 'er done.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please share any other priorities or commitments related to homelessness, addiction, rehabilitation, or community safety:

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

Our primary focus must be to protect our homeland and put Americans first. So let me address the elephant in the room: We must stop spending billions and billions on the war-machine and empire building! The federal government blew $8 trillion over 20 years on foreign wars—enough to build 12,000 hospitals, 56,000 schools, 80,000 bridges, and 400,000 miles of roads!

We are currently spending $3 billion per DAY on the war we started with Iran for the benefit of Israel—our economy is suffering, even charities are drying up. The plight of our veterans—homeless, hopeless, addicted, suicidal—can be traced directly back to those wars.

George Washington said 20 years of peace will transform America and build a strong economy that we could stand against any power on earth. It is PEACE that keeps the wealth of our nation at home. If our government stopped funding foreign wars and put tax dollars to work for Americans, we would have prosperity for everyone here at home.

We cannot keep spending billions on foreign wars while our neighbors sleep in the cold on streets, our youth die for lack of basic addiction recovery resources, and our families are torn apart by homelessness.

We cannot justify sending billions of dollars to foreign countries "helping other nations," while those who served our country freeze at night living on the streets and die for lack of basic resources. It is beyond disgraceful that any American faces this reality, and it is absolutely shameful that so many of them are VETERANS!