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YOUNG, GIFTED & GREEN CANDIDATE GUIDE

CLIMATE ON YOUR BALLOT · CANDIDATE GUIDE

I. DATA CENTERS

1. Before a data center is approved, what should the public be entitled to know about it?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

1. Will voters have the opportunity to vote on this project through a ballot proposition?
2. Who will own and operate the high-water-use data center? What is its purpose, how much of its capacity will be used for AI, vs. surveillance of American citizens?
3. Why Arizona, when we are low on water? How many gallons of water will the high-water-use data center use compared with our minimal rainfall? Where will that water come from?
4. Have the Navajo Nation, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and tribal nations been consulted about effects on their lands, communities, and sovereign water rights?
5. Have scientists and experts been consulted about the effects of high-water-use data centers, impacts on residents, agriculture, ecosystems, wildlife, and long-term sustainability?
6. Why aren't "100% waterless-data centers" being considered, using technologies such as Two-Phase Immersion Cooling or Closed-Loop Dry Cooling, already used by facilities like the Edged Data Center in Mesa, Arizona?
7. With "100% waterless-data center" technology advancing rapidly, who will pay to upgrade, repurpose, dismantle, and restore the site when the high-water-use data center becomes obsolete?
8. How much electricity will a high-water-use data center use, will the added demand raise residential electricity bills or strain the power grid?
9. Are outdated zoning regulations or permitting loopholes allowing high-water-use data centers to move forward without adequate environmental protections?

2. Who should pay for additional grid or infrastructure upgrades required by data centers?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

In desert lands, high-water-use data centers should not be permitted; only "100% waterless-data centers" should be considered.

For all data centers, including waterless data centers, companies should pay for any additional grid or infrastructure upgrades their projects require. These costs should not be passed on to taxpayers.

3. Should tax abatements or incentives for data centers be disclosed and approved by the public?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

In desert lands, high-water-use data centers should not be permitted; only “100% waterless-data centers” should be considered. Any proposed tax abatements or incentives must be fully disclosed and approved by the public before an agreement is made.

In other locations where environmental conditions can support data centers, any proposed tax abatements or incentives must also be fully disclosed and approved by the public before an agreement is made.

4. How should data centers be held accountable for violations?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

In desert lands, high-water-use data centers should not be permitted; only “100% waterless-data centers” should be considered. However, waterless data centers must still meet all applicable conditions for water use, air quality, noise, land use, and other environmental impacts.

For all data centers, violations should be addressed promptly. When appropriate, companies should be given an opportunity to correct problems, but corrective action must not replace enforcement. Applicable penalties should be enforced, and permits should be withheld, suspended, or revoked when necessary, especially when a company fails to correct violations or causes unacceptable harm to the community or environment.

5. How quickly should data center projects move forward in communities?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

In my community, the Arizona desert, high-water-use data centers should not be permitted; only “100% waterless-data centers,” like the Edged Data Center in Mesa, Arizona, should be considered.

Reasons:

1. Desert climate: Temperatures can reach 110–115°F in the shade. We have limited water resources, minimal rainfall, and ongoing drought conditions almost year-round.
2. Tribal water rights: Arizona’s tribal nations have sovereign water rights and communities of their own, and some lease water to Arizona cities and other municipal providers, including for use in areas like Tucson.
3. Agriculture: Farmers and ranchers need reliable water supplies to produce food.
4. Water must remain available for essential household needs and growing communities.
5. Ecosystems and wildlife have limited water to survive. Trees are especially important because the shade they provide is essential for life itself.
6. Studies show data centers are heating up Arizona neighborhoods by several degrees.¹
7. The majority of Arizona voters oppose high-water-use data centers.^{2, 3}

¹ ASU News, May 2026

<https://news.asu.edu/20260518-environment-and-sustainability-turning-down-heat-data-centers>

<https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4071922>

² Noble Predictive Insights, Aug. 2026

<https://www.noblepredictiveinsights.com/post/arizona-voters-want-the-brakes-put-on-new-data-centers>

³ WFF, June 2025

https://static.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/55/42/1e89fa5846ae82f1abadedeab4b5/wff-arizona-poll-2025-6.20.25_Toplines.pdf

6. How should data center water supply and water quality impacts be evaluated?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

In desert lands, high-water-use data centers should not be permitted; only “100% waterless-data centers” should be considered. However, waterless cooling does not necessarily mean a data center uses no water at all, so its total water use and potential impact on local water resources must also be addressed.

Therefore, for all proposed data centers, companies should demonstrate through independent research and public hearings that their water use will not significantly harm water quantity or quality. The company must disclose its expected water use, and the public must have an opportunity to review the evidence and comment. Each project should be reviewed case by case, and projects that would significantly harm water resources should be denied.

7. How should data center projects address impacts on land and farmland?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

In desert lands, high-water-use data centers should not be permitted; only “100% waterless-data centers” should be considered. However, waterless data centers still require land and can affect farmland, natural habitats, and existing land use, so those impacts must also be addressed.

Therefore, for all proposed data centers, companies should demonstrate through independent research and public hearings that the project will not unacceptably disrupt existing land use, farmland, or natural habitats. The public must have an opportunity to review the evidence and comment. Each project should be reviewed case by case, and projects that cannot meet acceptable limits for land and farmland impacts should be denied.

8. How should data center air quality and emissions be addressed?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

In desert lands, high-water-use data centers should not be permitted; only “100% waterless-data centers” should be considered. However, waterless data centers can still produce air pollution from backup generators and other combustion equipment, so their air-quality impacts must also be addressed.

Therefore, for all proposed data centers, companies should demonstrate through independent research and public hearings that air-quality impacts will remain within acceptable limits. The public must have an opportunity to review the evidence and comment. Each project should be reviewed case by case, existing laws and standards must be met, and projects that cannot meet acceptable air-quality limits should be denied.

9. How should data center noise impacts be addressed?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

In desert lands, high-water-use data centers should not be permitted; only “100% waterless-data centers” should be considered. However, waterless data centers can still create noise from cooling fans, equipment, and backup generators, so their noise impacts must also be addressed.

Therefore, for all proposed data centers, companies should demonstrate through independent research and public hearings that noise will remain within acceptable limits for nearby residents. The public must have an opportunity to review the evidence and comment. Each project should be reviewed case by case, and projects that cannot meet acceptable noise limits should be denied.

10. How should data centers' effects on community character and quality of life be evaluated?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

In desert lands, high-water-use data centers should not be permitted; only "100% waterless-data centers" should be considered.

For all proposed data centers, including waterless data centers, companies should demonstrate through independent research and public hearings that the project will not broadly disrupt residents' enjoyment of their community or negatively affect their quality of life. The public must have an opportunity to review the evidence and comment. Each project should be reviewed case by case, must comply with existing laws and standards, and should be denied if it cannot meet acceptable limits for these impacts.

II. CLIMATE, DISASTERS & ENERGY

11. Disaster Accountability

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

A and C — Company responsibility and existing emergency-management processes

A) Companies should pay for disaster damage they cause or make worse through pollution or negligence. They should not be allowed to pass those costs on to victims or taxpayers.

C) Increase reporting of disaster concerns using existing emergency-management agencies and processes.

12. Recovery Aid

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

B & C:

B) Increase reporting mechanisms to communities to highlight aid assistance in different places. (Two examples are a public online dashboard showing where aid is distributed and regular reports from existing agencies showing how much aid each community receives.)

C) Utilize existing structures for recovery and hold a hearing to weigh any additional evidence for change.

13. Energy Access

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

Let the free market decide. Government should not pick winners or use taxpayer money to favor certain energy sources or companies. Let competition and consumer demand drive innovation and keep costs down.

14. Disaster Preparedness

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

Option A focuses on planning and staffing, including language barriers.

Option B focuses on holding a public hearing and deciding which infrastructure project gets priority.

Option C focuses on continuing existing plans and transparency.

Those are good starts. Here's what else I'd do:

1. Protect power grids and water plants from severe storms and extreme heat.
2. Give hospitals and water pumps access to reliable backup power so essential services can keep running during outages.
3. Make agreements with local private contractors to help clear roads quickly after a disaster.
4. Store emergency supplies in multiple neighborhoods so equipment is available in different areas if roads become blocked.
5. Clear road drains and neighborhood ditches before the rainy season to help prevent flooding.
6. Make sure emergency crews are properly trained and ready to respond.
7. Make sure emergency warnings and evacuation instructions are understandable to everyone, especially people who don't speak English.
8. Regularly check emergency plans and fix problems before a disaster happens.
9. Work with local communities to hold regular emergency drills so residents know what to do when disaster strikes.
10. Make sure fire hydrants are working and water supplies are ready so firefighters can access the water they need during an emergency.
11. Consult experts and keep information up to date as conditions and risks change.

15. Energy Affordability

CANDIDATE RESPONSE:

In America, no one should have to freeze in winter or suffer and die from dangerous summer heat.

Here in Arizona, summer temperatures reach 110–115 degrees. In August, our A/C broke, and it was 106 degrees inside our home! In just two counties — Maricopa and Pima — at least 460 people died from heat this summer, some homeless, but many in their own homes.

We can't keep spending billions on foreign wars and aid while Americans struggle to avoid illness and death in their own homes. It's time to stop funding endless wars and put that money toward helping Americans. Even charities are drying up. What we are spending on just 7 days of war could provide rationed basic energy assistance to all 38 million households eligible for help for the winter. Put Americans first. This isn't a handout; it's a helping hand to save our fellow citizens' lives.

Practical Steps to Help Americans with Utilities:

- Implement the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
- Ban utility shutoffs during extreme summer heatwaves and deep winter freezes.
- Open public cooling and warming centers in local community buildings during weather emergencies.
- Provide immediate emergency utility bill assistance directly to struggling families.
- Offer tax credits for everyday families performing heating and A/C repairs.
- Fund emergency heater and A/C repair grants.
- Organize neighborhood wellness checks for seniors and disabled.
- Prioritize household power over tech utilities during grid emergencies.