

2026 Candidate Survey

The Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented (AAGT)

<https://arizonagifted.org/candidate-survey-results/#1790271189059-fcab3b41-263a>



Monica Alponente

How familiar are you with the educational needs of gifted learners?

Somewhat familiar

Please share any experiences or perspectives that have shaped your understanding of gifted learners and gifted education. If you have limited familiarity, we'd also love to hear what you'd like to learn more about.

Standard public schools are built around averages, but children are not average across the board. Giftedness is a wide spectrum. It means high intellectual ability, but it can also show up through creativity, the arts, invention, leadership, or an unusually deep ability to understand complex ideas.

Computers calculate, memorize, generate, and perform faster than people, but that is different from truly understanding a complex idea. So giftedness is increasingly about deep comprehension, connecting ideas, asking questions, and creating something new from what is understood.

Gifted children often learn and develop at a different pace. A rigid, one-size-fits-all system can leave them bored, frustrated, and isolated. Some gifted kids struggle socially because they may have interests or ways of thinking that are far ahead of their age group.

I'd like to learn more about balancing a gifted child's rapid intellectual development with their social and emotional development.

Parents know their kids better than an agency. That's why Parental Sovereignty is one of the key issues in my campaign. Families should have the freedom to choose the educational path that best fits their child, rather than forcing every kid into the same mold.

What are your priorities for strengthening education in Arizona?

My priorities for strengthening education in Arizona are giving families more educational choice, giving teachers and schools more flexibility to meet individual students where they are, and moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach: Parental Sovereignty.

That's why programs that help identify and support gifted kids are so important. These are tomorrow's leaders, inventors, entrepreneurs, and problem-solvers. We must make sure they have the opportunity to develop their abilities. An investment that pays huge dividends!

George Washington said that 20 years of peace would transform America and build a strong economy. Our government must stop funding foreign wars and instead put tax dollars to work for our children.

Yes, I support funding for these programs. To my fellow Libertarians who may not agree, let me just say: because we have spent so much on foreign wars for decades, we have some catching up to do here at home that "charity" and "voluntary action" alone cannot address.

What best reflects your position regarding continued federal investment in the Javits Gifted Education Program?

I support maintaining or increasing funding.

Additional Comments

Thank you for inviting candidates to address this very interesting and important issue. Kids are our future!