

# Citizens Clean Elections Commission *presents*

**CCEC LD16 Debate - 09/09/16 (Recorded by Brian M. Adkins, San Tan Valley Resident)**

*Please note that I'm not a professional recorder and this was typed as best and as fast as I could keep up! I think I did alright, but I missed a couple questions because of the speed of the debate, and I've included some personal thoughts at the end of this write-up! I sincerely apologize to the readers, voters, and candidates if I mistyped or missed anything. Good news was that the debate was recorded and can be viewed at this website: <http://www.azcleelections.gov/en/debates>*

## **David Farnsworth (R): State Senate**

1) First bill to submit would be to reduce the control by HOA's that currently allows HOA's to turn off utilities/water due to assessments. Must find balance with property rights, allowing freedom, without impacting neighbors.

### **Major Issue: Home Owners' Association / Property Rights**

2) Role of government to assist people out of poverty: Protect liberty. We have gone a long ways in the direction of socialism, allowing the overreach of government. Higher regulations is increasing poverty. Fought against 204% flex title loans. It's the job of faith-based organizations to help reduce poverty and help the community.

3) What would you change with our education programs: Nothing more important than the education of our young people; Too much funding isn't making it to the classrooms; too much money is lost due to bureaucracy.

4) What would you do to ensure the maintenance of Social Security and Welfare: Social Security funds should be protected, as now it is being named an entitlement and the money was stolen. The Federal government is spending too much money. Social Security is not safe while the Fed is overspending.

5) What's plan for Prop 123: Uncomfortable giving any more money before we have better control and oversight where the money is going. Most of the financial fraud undiscovered currently is located in the school districts.

6) How often should we cost account education/special education: Special education is extremely important. School districts are auditing themselves and he is uncomfortable with that; should have outside auditors providing oversight; need more money toward special education.

7) Social programs and the increase of socialism in our country is bad and must be stifled to stopped.

8) Quoted "Public education is socialism": Quotes Marx on public schools; Supports creationism, and that schools are infiltrated by incorrect teachings.

9) Why was the exit at Meridian built: Doesn't know, but our infrastructure needs to be improved. Projects are started and stopped (mentions 24); but need more money for roads, but not by increasing taxes. Need to bring out "thriving business"

10) If you aren't supportive of public schools, how do the working poor get an education: We have public schools and they need to be the best; Charter schools are great to create competition for public schools. Charter schools make money because they treat it like a business and better manage their money. Public schools should better manage their money.

11) Thoughts on ObamaCare: 100% opposed to ObamaCare; It is socialism.

**Closing: Quotes the Preamble to the Constitution from memory; proper role of government is to protect the rights and liberties of the people. Too much government and although socialism sounds good, but we can't afford it.**

### **Scott Prior (D): State Senate**

1) First bill to submit would be holding elected officials to a higher standard, and ensure ethics within the scope of elected officials. Stronger investigation and focus on the ethics; harsher punishment for ethics violations.

**Major Issue: Bolstering the economy / Focus on infrastructure / State parks / Roads / Water**

2) Role of government to assist people out of poverty: Stop giving tax breaks to corporations and support those in poverty instead. We should "cap down" on cronyism and capitalism. Capitalism isn't bad until it goes into greed.

3) What would you change with our education programs: Against Prop 123; Let teachers teach; don't let standardization and testing run the classroom. Let teachers teach how the students will learn. Infrastructure in school is currently horrible.

4) What would you do to ensure the maintenance of Social Security and Welfare: Social Security isn't enough to sustain those that need it now; due to "dirty politicians". Need to work at the Federal level to work out the issues with Social Security.

5) Would a (D) representative make an impact? Brings a different perspective. Put people on the ballot and give people a choice even if the chance of running (D) is slim. For collaboration.

6) Position on Police Body-cams: Protects the police officers and protects the citizens as well. Very fond of police officers; and acknowledges there are a couple bad apples.

7) Healthcare is a right. The amount of money saved in preventative healthcare is substantial. It's a good idea to ensure people are healthy. Ensuring basic healthcare for everyone is a right.

8) Opinion on legalization of medical marijuana: It has helped his brother who was in a work-related accident. Plenty needs to be studied, but all for it because it helps his brother.

9) There needs to be better communication; more town halls. Need to get voter feedback for the representatives. Need to get more people involved in government to improve knowledge in the community.

**Closing: At the end of the day, everyone needs a voice at the capitol. Doesn't care about the specifics and identifiers, everyone should be heard, and that is his goal. We all strive for the same things, and we all deserve it regardless of anything.**

## **Doug Coleman (R): House of Representatives**

1) First bill to submit (Reduce growth of student tuition associations) - Issue automatically grows 20%/year. Reduces the growth to 2%/year, stifle the impact to the state budget.

*Q: What programs would you like to reallocate the funds saved by reducing the Student Tuition Growth? Base funding for education for state and charter schools. (These are questions I asked the candidate)*

### **Major Issue: Education**

2) Role of government to assist people out of poverty: Provide better education for youth and for adults to help teach people out of poverty. There shouldn't be programs that incentivize people to not work.

3) What would you change with our education programs: Over 31 years in the classroom, feels that it felt like a transition from teaching to documenting. Need an increase in base funding to ensure better wages, raises, and bonuses for teachers.

4) What would you do to ensure the maintenance of Social Security and Welfare: This is a Federal issue and we need to work with our Federal counterparts to fix this problem.

5) 4-Day School working? Kids asked by teachers don't like the four day week, but like the three day weekend; Seems test scores have increased since instituted.

6) What would you do to preserve and protect our public lands: Meet with Sen. Farnsworth and gather ideas. Problems with BLM land. Housing development. Need state trust land reforms.

7) Thoughts on voter ID requirements: Believes that it isn't a bad idea that people prove who they are to vote.

8) What are your plans to ensure families don't go hungry/help with poverty: Understands poverty exists, and it's hard to teach hungry kids. Supports some social programs "free and reduced lunch" and other school programs that help kids eat.

9) How do we improve K-12 education: Need to attract better people into the teaching profession; Our bright kids aren't being driven toward teaching, instead lawyers and doctors.

**Closing: Have the experience of teaching and working at the local level for year. Believes he has been an effective legislator; Endorsed by a number of groups; Has an open door policy.**

## Cara Prior (D): House of Representatives

- 1) First bill to submit would be to focus on poverty, finding root cause; find assistance to help guide and direct bill development.
- 2) Role of government to assist people out of poverty: Would like families to have jobs, vacations, home, and benefits. Supports livable wages.

*Q: Do you believe that further incorporation within your district will help drive commercial and consumer development of job opportunities and allow our community to improve wealth for better wages? Must fix education before incorporating and saying "come out here" (These are questions I asked the candidate)*

- 3) What would you change with our education programs: Would defer to educators and teachers to discuss the best direction for changing the education system. Bring art back to schools. Change the way we address and talk about schools and education.
- 4) What would you do to ensure the maintenance of Social Security and Welfare: We need to protect Social Security and it IS NOT an entitlement.
- 5) Answer your most feared question: "Pass" no response.
- 6) What is your opinion of state budget and spending on citizens: Don't have enough facts; the question is loaded and too complicated for this setting.
- 7) Thoughts on children born in the US by illegals be granted citizenship: This is a loaded question and this isn't really a state issue.
- 8) Thoughts on renewable energy: We live in the land of the sun. We should be using more solar. We should be ashamed that we aren't cornering the market and the top of the solar community.
- 9) Thoughts on increasing state minimum wage: All for increasing minimum wages to "livable wages" to make people happier and less stressed.

**Closing: Issue with special interests, and need to get the crooked politicians out. Will stand up for everyone regardless of anything. Need to treat everyone equally.**

## Sharon Stinard (D): House of Representatives

- 1) First bill to submit would be restore funding to "basic education" that has been drained since 2009.

### Major Issue: Education

- 2) Role of government to assist people out of poverty: Hungry children is not an option. We should be taking care of the "least" of our people as a part of our civic duty.

3) What would you change with our education programs: Set a standard of excellence for our students. Ensure that standard is set at the organizational level. One of the biggest factors is making teachers a profession again and that it is paid appropriately. Testing is overboard. Empower independence for teachers curriculums. It takes money to ensure a quality education.

4) What would you do to ensure the maintenance of Social Security and Welfare: Thanks young people who pay into Social Security; as a Social Security recipient. Social Security is the greatest "anti-poverty" program ever instituted in this country and it must be protected and reformed.

5) Opinion of the "Snap" foodstamp program: Supports SNAP to ensure children go to sleep well-fed. Eating is a basic human right. Need to ensure that food is available to all people.

6) What is your view of the American Dream; Role of gov't in that dream: Support myself and be a homeowner, and have enough money to enjoy a trip "here and there". Having a family and supporting oneself is the definition of the American Dream.

7) How do we help you reach your goals: "My goals are my people in my district"; Provide representation that is responsive to the community. Help me be a good representative.

8) Thoughts on men and women paid the same wages: Appreciates that in many professions respect the genders and pay equally; not always the case. "Raise all boats"

9) Thoughts on public lands being assigned to the state: Need Fed permission to bring public lands to the state level; current state level lands aren't being maintained well enough as is. We need to be better stewards of the land we have first.

**Closing: As a retired 42 years educator; I believe I understand the issues that are important to the citizens of LD16; We've been a part of one part rule for too long. Clean Elections candidate. Respectfully ask for your vote.**

## **Brian's Personal AAR: Post Debate Thoughts**

I'd first like to start by providing a little personal context so you know who's opinion you are about to read. If you aren't interested in my opinion, thank you for reading this far, and I appreciate your interest in the debate and our election process!

*I grew up on a tobacco/beef cattle farm in Tennessee where I played baseball, football, tennis, served as 4-H President, TSA Parliamentarian, and was a fairly successful and awarded highschool public speaker. I then served 7 years in the U.S. Navy, one as an Individual Augmentee with the U.S. Army deployed to Camp Victory/Liberty, Iraq in 2007, and with the Navy in 2008, 2010, and 2011 (Persian Gulf/Japan after Fukushima); also graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy Prep School and Aegis Fire Control 'A' and 'C' Schools. After the military, I was recruited to work for Intel Corporation in their Dry Etch department, and have worked there for four years, while using my GI Bill to continue my education studying World History at ASU. I also have been Scouting my whole life, I'm a Gillwellian (Thunder Beavers!) and love the Boy and Girl Scout programs! So, that is me!*

**David Farnsworth:** Senator Farnsworth is an extremely approachable and friendly person, who has spoken strongly about the importance of educating voters and empowering community members to lead and teach about government and help voters better understand and participate in local and state government. He's very supportive of ambition, and has afforded plenty of opportunity to help develop those interested in participating more in their communities. I've been very grateful for the extended opportunity to helpwork with my community to increase awareness, communication, and education about our government and how to be more active in it!

**Scott Prior:** Met Mr. Prior this evening, and I have to say he was wonderfully well spoken and articulated his views, opinions, ideas, and points rather well! I love that he has a healthy relationship and sees that it is more important to work with the person, regardless of party affiliation. He has a grounded and down-to-earth feel and view on our government. He made a stifling comment tonight regarding fielding democratic party candidates in our district saying basically "just because the chances of winning are slim doesn't mean that no candidates should run; everyone deserves the option; everyone deserves to be heard (sic)". He was very friendly and approachable and honestly it was refreshing to speak with someone so willing to listen to opposing views and reply so honestly, yet respectfully. He genuinely seems to want to ensure that all views, beliefs, and backgrounds are heard and represented!

**Doug Coleman:** Representative Coleman spoke for almost an hour with me after the debate, and he came across genuine, good-natured, and had a level willingness to hear the thoughts of those who attended, share his personal and honest views, and also provide ideas and solutions that he felt could help many achieve the goals we all want without compromising his other constituents. As a retired teacher, he is a strong advocate for school reform and development; and his heart is very much there! While speaking with him, we had a moment of off-topic conversation and I saw a genuineness that made me feel very good while speaking with him. He is very firm that he wants to help everyone, but he also doesn't want to compromise or hurt anyone whom he represents, which leads him to offering alternatives and compromises that allow for solutions, even if those solutions aren't "right now", but is very willing to work hard with those willing to work with him to help cultivate a stronger district and community. Has an "open door" policy!

**Cara Prior:** Mrs. Prior received a ton of hard questions, one of which was my fault, and I apologize for the confusion by my "incorporation" reference. Mr. Prior has stated that they will continue working on developing that understanding and she will be prepared for my curve balls at the next debate! Haha; Anyhow, she did receive a ton of hard questions, and honestly some of them would have been a challenge for any candidate to answer. When listening, I always practice answering them myself, and I would have certainly struggled aswell. Mrs. Prior's social views are very different from mine, but she does make a solid point about our state's miss on developing better solar energy programs. I think that she will continue to gain speed as the debates and campaign continues and I sincerely hope that she continues to work hard developing her ideas, and also communicating with experts in various fields to prepare for debate questions that will test her acumen for various and specific topics of interest.

**Sharon Stinard:** Didn't take the opportunity tonight to speak with Mrs. Stinard to my detriment. She is a very well-spoken and pleasant lady, and her views and focus on children and education is wonderful in

my opinion. Although I am pretty well against social programs and more government control, I think that some of the programs she spoke of and her reasons for supporting them would be something I'd look into more and be willing to consider, given the proper and "clean" oversight is arranged. I look forward to hearing more from and about her in the future town halls and debates and hopefully I'll find the opportunity to speak with her and get a better feel for her as a person and a candidate!

Thanks for reading, and I sincerely encourage all of you that made it to the end to continue actively engaging in and following the elections this year. Your vote really does matter, because voter turnout is abysmal, which means that your vote is vital! If you would like to know more, get invited to such events, or participate and contact the candidates, please feel free to email me at [adkins.aa@gmail.com](mailto:adkins.aa@gmail.com) or you can find me and receive updates and invites, communicate, and even become wonderful friends!

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Best regards,

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