

**Cave Creek Support Our Students – 2010 Legislative Candidate  
Questionnaire**

**1. Please enter your name.**

**Ray Barnes**

**2. Please provide your preferred email address:**

**ray.barnes@cox.net**

**3. What is your education and relevant experience for this office?**

**I've been in the Legislature for 8 years. I put my daughter through Public School (Deer Valley School District).**

**4. If you have children, do you/did you send them to public school? If so, did they graduate from a public school?**

**I put my daughter through Public School (Deer Valley School District).  
Yes she graduated!**

**5. Do you feel you are an advocate for public education in Arizona? Use specific examples of what you will do or have done to demonstrate your level of support for public education in Arizona.**

**I am a huge supporter of Public Education. I went through the public school system in Haverhill, Mass. I support my school districts & I work, with Kiwanis, to help the students with a lot of extra-curricular activities. For the most part, school districts in my district are correctly balanced by teacher cost and administration costs. I would like to see more Business Major Graduates in the Administration positions.**

**6. Will you work to protect public education from any further budget cuts?**

**I don't like cutting anyone's budget. I don't salivate when I'm forced to cut the education budget. I wish the direction of the state had been different in the early 2000's. We should have been spending less and saving more for times like this. It's a cycle that always happens! I voted against many budgets; because that were leading us into this terrible budget environment.**

**7. The system for funding public education in Arizona is a maze of laws, rules, regulations, funding sources, etc. Please share specifics on how you would simplify how we fund our public schools here in Arizona to make that funding source more efficient, effective and reliable?**

**Most, but not all, is caused by the Federal Regulations. Unfortunately, because of the ethnic makeup of the schools and other things beyond our control, our hands are tied. Lawsuits have forced us to go in directions we hadn't considered. I'd like to make it the same funding for every student, statewide. Essentially it is suppose to be that way.**

**8. Should the education formula be based on seat time and average daily membership or on student academic progress and successful achievement of academic standards?**

**I'm not an Education Major! I don't go to my doctor, tell him what's wrong with me and what to prescribe for medicine. Education Majors should know what works best and implement it!!! The education results should show if you need to keep or change your system.**

**9. Knowing that money does not cure all, how do you feel that Arizona ranks dead last in per pupil funding? Are you happy with the status quo or how will you work to change that? Can you share your plan on how Arizona can improve its school funding to at least a competitive level? Be specific.**

**You always forget to include the cost of living in Arizona, when you use this formula. Arizona has one of the lowest costs of living in the U.S. How many houses can you buy in Arizona for the cost of a house in California, Massachusetts, New York, etc.? How many more houses do teachers need in Arizona compared to what they need in California? Do they need 3 houses in Arizona and only one in California? Using houses alone, they need approximately 1/3 the wages of a California teacher. They're doing much better than that!**

**10. Do you think that class-size affects academic performance? How and at what size?**

**Of course it does, but it also depends on the expertise of the teacher! Some teachers are much better than others. However, I don't like or want overcrowded classrooms!!! How about getting rid of some of the vice principals and vice superintendents, statewide!**

**11. How do you feel about the unfunded mandate of the AIMS test (or a similar test) when teachers spend a large portion of their school year "teaching to the test"? Be specific.**

**I have very little respect for the AIMS test or any other test that is dumbed down to make more student pass, or that is taught to students so that they will pass. What a terrible principle to teach our children or expose the taxpayers to. Forget the test. A phony test result is meaningless, anyway! This doesn't do too much for the reputation of the education system either.**

**12. Do you believe that the voters approving Prop 301 intended the 2% inflation factor to be applied to the entire M&O budget or just legislatively selected portions of the operating budget?**

**If it isn't laid out in the legislation, it should be. When I propose legislation (proposition), I really try to look 5 years in advance to see what might happen that should be changed now. I didn't have too much to do with Prop 301 creation, so I really don't know what they had in mind!**

**13. How do you plan to support districts with textbook adoptions with the decrease/limits on soft capital funding? Do you understand that many districts such as CCUSD operate with textbooks that are ten years old?**

**I would have created computer course that already had the book in the program, and you then only have to update one book, on site, and everyone gets the update, with the course, each year. This could have and perhaps should have been done a long time ago. The school pays for the course each year, instead of a book. It would be a lot cheaper.**

**14. The budget cuts have eliminated the funding for the Gifted Students Educational Program. With the passing of Prop 100 what legislative measures will you take to restore this funding to meet the many critical needs for our brightest minds and high achievers in AZ?**

**I really don't know that this is necessary. We never had "high achievers" funding, when I went to school. The motivation was that the achievers got better jobs, got scholarships to better colleges, etc. It worked for us.**

**15. Where and what grade level classrooms have you observed in the last 12 months? What specifics can you share about class size and per pupil**

**expenditure in those classrooms? I think it may disrupt the class and make the teacher uneasy.**

**I have made presentations to schools, but have never sat in on a class. I think it may disrupt the class and make the teacher uneasy, for me to be in the classroom. However, I really don't know. Invite me & we'll find out, won't we?**

**16. Due to our district's low poverty, or "free and reduced lunch" level, do you understand the disparity that places CCUSD at a disadvantage for federal and grant application-based funding, and would you be willing to support legislation that would allow districts such as CCUSD in low-poverty areas to secure supplemental funding to reach curriculum or achievement standards that may be desired by the governing board? If so, what might those funding sources be? (please cite examples such as local prop tax, program fees, etc.)**

**I, like others, don't look at Cave Creek as a low income area. I need more information. How many low income students do you have? What low income area do they come from? Are you talking about illegal aliens that reside in Cave Creek? SB 1070 will probably take care of that problem.**

**17. Do you support performance pay programs like Career Ladders and Prop 301 for teachers?**

**I really want to reward exceptional teachers.**

**18. In constructing new schools, do you believe that bonding or direct general fund support is the most efficient and cost effective?**

**I'm not a banker, but it seems that financing would be cheaper. However, cheaper is not always better. The time of a loan, required investment all count. I almost think each situation is different.**

**19. Would you support a requirement that all new education policy initiatives proposed by the legislature contain a fiscal note and be required to include all necessary funding prior to adoption?**

**The appropriations committees generally consider all fiscal requirements in proposed legislation. Any bill requiring funding is required to go before the Appropriations Committee.**

**20. Do you think the Constitutional requirement to fund a general and uniform public education system should take precedence over programs supporting private schools?**

**A student is a student, is a student, is a student. Are public school students better than private school students? I'm pretty sure private school students are not better than public school students, don't you agree?? If they are different, how can you tell????**

**21. Please describe your level of support for school vouchers and private school tax credits, how should they be used (if at all), to whom should they be given/used for, and how would you change the current system in place? Be specific.**

**I support private schools. I answer this more completely in the next question. Privatization, for the most part, is not bad. Total government control can be a disadvantage rather than an advantage, because of the politics that surface. I feel that private schools have the right to equal treatment, as long as they are doing a good job. If they perform better than public schools; it puts pressure on the public system to do better. I don't think they should be given more than public schools either. Why should they? I came through the public school system. I have no desire to do away with public education.**

**22. Do you feel that the use of Vouchers and private school tax credits is appropriate considering the struggle that our public education system has recently faced and continues to face? Be specific.**

**I always go to the corner with the most gas stations to buy gas. The cost is less, the service is always better, and the customer is given a quick turnaround to get another in there quickly. Sorry, but the same with grocery markets, banks, pharmacies and unfortunately schools!! I despise monopolies. Why are the Arizona public schools afraid of private schools. Do they feel they can not compete! If they do not, why are they constantly complaining?**