

Candidate Response



Friday, September 18, 2026

Name: **Nick Mansour**

Office Running For: **Treasurer**

70% of Arizonans believe that their elected leaders should “do a lot more” to ensure Arizona has educated and skilled workers - especially because the state has a goal of ensuring 60% of adults having a post-high school education, which includes job training, degrees, or workforce certification (the Achieve60AZ Goal). When you hear “do a lot more” what does that mean to you and what you will do in office?

Arizona has made meaningful progress, reaching 50% postsecondary attainment and adding approximately 30,000 degrees, certificates, and licenses. But we remain short of where we need to be by many measures. Too many Arizonans, particularly those in rural, tribal, Latino, and low-income communities, still lack an accessible pathway to a quality education.

I saw what is possible while helping build Arizona College of Nursing. By connecting education with a critical workforce need, we prepared thousands of students for well-paying careers while helping address Arizona’s nursing shortage.

As Treasurer, I will manage the Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund responsibly, modernize its investment strategy, and pursue stronger long-term returns without compromising safety. I will advocate for sustainable education funding and use the office to bring educators, employers, workforce organizations, local businesses, and governments together. Every Arizonan, regardless of zip code or stage of life, should have a pathway to learning the skills needed for a high-wage, high-demand career.

Arizona's Education Progress Meter shows that our state is well behind our goals on many critical education markers. A few examples are below. Rate how much of a problem you think this is for the state?

1 Not a Problem – 10 Very Significant Problem

- 10 / 10** Currently, 31% of three- and four-year-olds have access to quality early childhood education learning compared to the statewide goal of at least 45%.
- 10 / 10** Currently, 36% of Arizona 3rd graders read at grade-level and meet state standards for English language proficiency compared to the statewide goal of 72%.
- 10 / 10** Currently, math test scores show 27% of Arizona 8th graders meet state standards, indicating they are prepared for high school compared to the statewide goal of 69%.
- 10 / 10** Currently, 78% of Arizona high school students graduate within four years, compared with the statewide goal of 90%.

In your view, what is the path to improving these numbers?

We must invest across the entire education pipeline, from quality early learning through postsecondary education and workforce training. A child who begins school behind, cannot read proficiently by third grade, or enters high school unprepared for mathematics faces increasingly difficult barriers to graduation and a successful career.

Arizona needs more robust, stable investments that allow schools to retain and recruit excellent educators, expand proven literacy and mathematics programs, and provide counselors who help students find their next step. Those pathways should include universities, community colleges, apprenticeships, technical education, dual enrollment, and industry-recognized credentials.

We must also address barriers facing rural, tribal, Latino, low-income, and adult learners, including affordability, childcare, transportation, and limited access to programs. As Treasurer, I will focus on improving the education endowment's performance while protecting it for future generations. Stronger, responsible returns can provide more resources for students without raising taxes. We should measure outcomes, invest in approaches that work, and ensure public dollars produce meaningful results.

Should there have been a clean referral, defined as a re-proposal of Proposition 123 as it was passed by voters ten years ago, to the ballot this year?

Yes. Arizona should not have allowed a proven source of education funding to expire without giving voters the opportunity to renew it. A clean referral would have protected continuity while allowing a broader conversation about improving the endowment's performance and developing a sustainable long-term funding plan.

What do you believe should happen with Proposition 123 in the future?

Arizona should act quickly to place a responsible and sustainable Proposition 123 renewal before voters. Its expiration reduced the resources available to schools at a time when Arizona must accelerate educational attainment and prepare more people for high-skill, high-wage jobs - not to mention the strain its absence is now causing to our overall state budget.

The next proposal should provide reliable classroom funding while protecting and growing the Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund for future generations. Better investment management, prudent diversification, professional oversight, and transparent performance benchmarks can help us advance both goals.

As Treasurer, I would work with the Governor, legislators, educators, tribal and community leaders, employers, and taxpayers to develop a financially sound proposal that can earn broad bipartisan support.

But, unlike my predecessor, I will then advocate for it - working relentlessly to get it passed. Arizona must stop treating education funding as a recurring political crisis and establish a durable plan that supports students from early learning through postsecondary education and workforce training.

The following policy solutions received at least 80% or more levels of support from Arizona voters when they were asked. Please indicate your alignment.

- 5 - Strong Support
- 4 - Lean Support
- 3 - Undecided
- 2 - Lean Against
- 1 - Strong Against

- 5 / 5** Expanding access to advanced placement and dual enrollment courses that allow high school students to earn college credits
- 5 / 5** Funding Adult Technical Education to provide more workers, students, or adults looking to change careers with the financial resources needed to access job training and career education programs
- 5 / 5** Increasing the number of counselors available to help high school students plan for college or a career program
- 5 / 5** Providing adult parents who are fulltime students with low-cost childcare
- 5 / 5** Comprehensive literacy and reading programs to ensure students are reading by 3rd grade
- 5 / 5** Academic achievement and workforce development programs that provide students with access to career-focused learning pathways to good-paying jobs

Any final statement you want to make for voters to consider or clarification on any of the answers above?

I have spent nearly three decades building and managing organizations in finance, emergency services, and education. That experience taught me that educational attainment, workforce development, and economic growth are inseparable.

Arizona businesses cannot grow without skilled workers. Families cannot thrive without accessible pathways to education, training, and well-paying careers. Communities cannot prosper unless opportunity reaches as many Arizonans as possible.

The Treasurer does not set education policy, but the office has an important responsibility to safeguard and grow the assets that support our schools. I will bring business experience, transparency, and longterm thinking to that work. I will protect taxpayer dollars, modernize the office, and pursue responsible investment strategies that strengthen education without compromising safety or liquidity.

My standard will be straightforward: we will manage Arizona's public assets responsibly, and we do everything within the office's authority to expand opportunity and prepare Arizona for the future.