



## NEWS RELEASE

### **NEWLY RELEASED CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS ADDRESS CITIZENS' QUESTIONS, PROVIDE IN-DEPTH ANSWERS**

#### **Interviews by Center for the Future of Arizona Serve as a Source of Nonpartisan Information for Voters**

**(PHOENIX – October 7, 2010)** The Center for the Future of Arizona has announced the release of a series of taped interviews with candidates for state-level office designed to help inform citizens of candidates' positions on a broad range of issues critical to Arizona's future. CFA's announcement coincides with the mailing of early voting ballots today (Thursday, October 7). The 30- to 45-minute taped interviews can be viewed online at [www.TheArizonaWeWant.org/interviews](http://www.TheArizonaWeWant.org/interviews) and [www.azpbs.org/vote2010/videos.php](http://www.azpbs.org/vote2010/videos.php). Phoenix's KAET Channel Eight (PBS) provided production support.

Republican and Democratic candidates who chose to participate in the one-on-one interviews with CFA Chairman and CEO Lattie Coor include Terry Goddard (D), candidate for Arizona governor; Ken Bennett (R) and Chris Deschene (D), candidates for secretary of state; Tom Horne (R) and Felecia Rotellini (D), candidates for attorney general; Andrei Cherny (D) and Doug Ducey (R), candidates for treasurer; and Penny Kotterman (D), candidate for superintendent of public instruction.

The taped interviews draw on questions from citizens around the state collected online and at five Center for the Future of Arizona town meetings held in June as part of its *The Arizona We Want* initiative. Peoria, Mesa, Tucson, Flagstaff and Sierra Vista were the sites of the town meetings. Candidate interview questions address job creation, education, immigration, health care, natural resources and water management, state finances, and leadership and the structure of government.

"Our goal is to provide Arizonans with thoughtful, in-depth answers from candidates about the issues citizens have identified as having the greatest importance to them," said Coor, who is the former president of Arizona State University. "People want to know where candidates stand. They want to know who, and what, they are voting for."

The Gallup Arizona Poll results released in October 2009 by the Center for the Future of Arizona found that only 10 percent of Arizonans believe their elected officials represent their interests. In addition, the "Arizona Civic Health Index," released September 23, 2010 by CFA in partnership with the National Conference on Citizenship, found that more than 37% of Arizonans say they do not follow the news regularly, making Arizonans less well-informed than people in other states.

The "Arizona Civic Health Index" also found that most measures of Arizona's civic health, including voter turnout, lag those for the rest of the nation. The study identifies opportunities for improving the state's civic health.

The Center for the Future of Arizona is a Phoenix-based, independent, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that combines public-policy research with collaborative partnerships and initiatives designed to create opportunities and quality of life for all Arizonans. More information can be found at [www.ArizonaFuture.org](http://www.ArizonaFuture.org).

###