



February 18, 2010

Thank you all for coming today.

I am proud to announce that yesterday the Arizona Highway Patrol Association made the decision to endorse me in the Republican primary for Arizona Attorney General. Highway Patrol officers, and all of the employees of the Department of Public Safety, enforce our laws every day. They need an Attorney General who will support them 100 percent, and strictly enforce the laws that keep our homes and communities safe. I am proud and thankful that they have decided that I am the best person to do that. I want to express thanks to Jimmy Chavez, the president of the Highway Patrol Association, and Andy Swann, the former president of the Highway Patrol Association, who are with us here today.

As Superintendent of Schools, I have made conservative principles work. We banned bilingual education, demanded excellence, and held schools, teachers, and students accountable for results. There has been a new sense of urgency to bring academic rigor to our classrooms. Our students now perform above the national average on the *TerraNova* test (a national test which all of our students grades 2-9 take) the Scholastic Aptitude Test, and the ACT college entrance test.

Today I am announcing that I am running for Attorney General, so that I can continue to make conservative principles work for the taxpayers. Prior to becoming Superintendent of Schools, I had 30 years of experience as a lawyer, while simultaneously learning education as a member of a school board for 24 years. As a litigator, I have more courtroom experience than almost anyone now serving in the Attorney General's office. I was a judge pro tem in the Superior Court, judge pro tem in the court of appeals, wrote a legal textbook published by the State Bar, and taught legal writing at the ASU law school.

As Attorney General my top three priorities would be the following: 1) Fight crime and keep our homes and communities safe; 2) Secure the borders; and 3) Create a legal climate favorable to economic growth to attract jobs.

Helping secure the borders is vital. A country cannot be considered sovereign if it cannot control its borders. At a time of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, a porous border presents major security problems.

Here are some examples of what I would do as Attorney General. I would help stop illegal immigration by: reopening the Douglas office, which was closed; beefing up the Nogales

office, which was reduced to one person; promote partnerships with other law enforcement agencies to combat illegal immigration; and help pressure the federal government to finish the wall along the border. I would expand the civil remedies office, which seizes assets from smugglers and money launderers. This section was reduced in size even though each employee pays for himself many times over. The office now has to turn away good cases. To create a legal climate favorable to economic growth, it is necessary to enforce the law strictly and objectively – never out of personal vendettas, for publicity, or for other political purposes.

Anyone who has had his eyes and ears open during the latter half of the 20th century has learned that markets work much better than governments. Additionally, as a serious student of history, I realize that no nation can succeed without strong families, strong law enforcement, an atmosphere of patriotism, a strong work ethic, and respect for high standards and high achievement. **These have been the conservative principles that have guided me in public office.**

The importance of having a Republican Attorney General is illustrated by the case of *Horne v. Flores*. As you may recall, a federal judge fined Arizona \$1 million a day, and then \$2 million a day, to force taxpayers to spend more money on English Language Learners. The Democrat Attorney General and former governor, and much of the liberal establishment, supported this outrageous lawsuit. I was the only party to appeal the decision. **I represented the taxpayers** while the Democratic Attorney General opposed the taxpayers. We ultimately won in the United States Supreme Court, saving Arizona taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

If I become Attorney General, I will always represent the taxpayers. I will make conservative principles work in fighting crime to keep our homes and communities safe, helping to secure our borders, and in creating a legal climate favorable to economic growth to attract jobs.

I am happy to take your questions.