

*Instead of supporting our men and women in law enforcement, JoAnna Mendoza has supported defunding our police, drastically cutting law enforcement budgets and eliminating officers. Mendoza has claimed that “seeing a police officer is fear”*

**Mendoza Supports Defunding The Police (A “Reallocation Of Funding”) Due To Law Enforcement’s “Systemic Racism.” She Said That People “Fear” Seeing Police Officers “With Good Reason” Because They Are “Killing Our Sons, Our Daughters, Our Brothers, Our Sisters, Our Friends, Our Neighbors, Our Coworkers”**

**VIDEO: In June 2020, Asked Whether She Supports ‘Calls To Defund The Police,’ Mendoza Responded: “This Is About Systemic Racism.”** LARRY BODINE: “And it concerns the Black Lives Matter movement. What are your feelings about the current issues with the police and even calls to defund the police? I know it’s a local government issue, but tell us about what your position is.” JOANNA MENDOZA: “Well, I think one of the big things now, certainly what we’ve seen in the past and most recently with the killing of George Floyd, is not only painful but we’re also still grieving the lives that have been lost. This issue is an issue that hits a multitude of areas. This is about systemic racism.” (Interview With JoAnna Mendoza, Time Stamp: 34:13, [Democrats Of Greater Tucson](#), 6/16/20)

- **VIDEO: Mendoza Called For “Police Reform” — Including “Cultural And Sensitivity Training” — But Concluded That “This Issue Extends Past Just Police Reform.”** MENDOZA: “Now, I do think that there needs to be police reform, body cameras, cultural and sensitivity training. There needs to be more measures put in place to ensure that police officers are held accountable and that there’s that accountability and transparency, and so I certainly support those measures. But I also think that this issue extends past just police reform.” (Interview With JoAnna Mendoza, Time Stamp: 34:53, [Democrats Of Greater Tucson](#), 6/16/20)
- **VIDEO: Mendoza Added: “We Need To Look At The Systemic Racism Within Different Systems Within Our Government ... I Can’t Even Imagine What George Floyd’s Mom Experienced ...”** MENDOZA: “We need to look at the systemic racism within different systems within our government. I mean, you know, education is one of them, housing is another one of them. And for me, and especially being a person of color and raising a child who will eventually be a man of color, it is heartbreaking. I can’t even imagine what George Floyd’s mom experienced during that time and, if we don’t get a hold on this now, this is going to be an issue that will continue to plague our nation.” (Interview With JoAnna Mendoza, Time Stamp: 35:13, [Democrats Of Greater Tucson](#), 6/16/20)

**VIDEO: In June 2020, Asked Whether She Supports ‘The Defunding Of Police,’ Mendoza Responded That, “For Some Communities ... Seeing A Police Officer Is Fear. Fear Of The Unknown Of What Might Happen — With Good Reason ...”** MICHELLE KAUK: “If elected, will you support the defunding of police? If not, do you support other reform proposals? Please be specific.” JOANNA MENDOZA: “You know, I think we’re in a very difficult time right now in our nation and in the state with the murder of George Floyd, the outrage over countless murders of black men and women and folks are tired and they’re demanding change. They’re outraged and they’re also grieving. For some communities, seeing a police officer in their community gives them a sense of security, gives them a sense of, you know, everything’s okay, there’s a police officer. And, for other communities, seeing a police officer is fear. Fear of the unknown of what might happen — with good reason, because look what has happened most recently. And it’s been happening for a long time.” (State Legislative Candidate Debate, Time Stamp: 00:18:40, [Citizens Clean Elections Commission](#), 6/17/20)

- **VIDEO: Mendoza: “There Are Hundreds, Hundreds Of ... Murders At The Hands Of Police Brutality ... We’re Seeing The Demand For Change Through The Protests, Through The Civil Unrest.”** MENDOZA: “There are hundreds, hundreds of deaths at the hands — murders at the hands of police brutality. And so what we’re seeing right now from folks is we’re seeing the demand for change through the protests, through the civil unrest. We are seeing that folks no longer trust law enforcement agencies who, by the way,

have taken an oath to protect and serve their communities and have clearly violated that both time and time again, and so the protests are a cry.” (State Legislative Candidate Debate, Time Stamp: 00:18:40, [Citizens Clean Elections Commission](#), 6/17/20)

- **VIDEO: Mendoza: Law Enforcement Needs To Be “Held Accountable For The Crimes That They Are Committing,” Including “A Database That Would Ensure That A Police Officer Makes Misconduct Is Actually Recorded.”** MENDOZA: “They’re are demand for change, for police reform, to ensure that law enforcement officers who are not upholding that oath are actually held accountable and that there’s transparency in our government, body cameras, banning of choke holds and knees to the neck, actually having a database that would ensure that a police officer makes misconduct is actually recorded, and ensuring that these law enforcement officials who are violating that special trust and confidence that the public should have in them, ensuring that they are being held accountable for the crimes that they are committing.” (State Legislative Candidate Debate, Time Stamp: 00:18:40, [Citizens Clean Elections Commission](#), 6/17/20)
- **VIDEO: Mendoza: “We Will No Longer Stand For You Killing Our Sons, Our Daughters, Our Brothers, Our Sisters, Our Friends, Our Neighbors, Our Coworkers. Enough Is Enough.”** MENDOZA: “So, I think right now what we’re seeing is the public is saying, number-one, I’m tired. We will no longer stand for this. We will no longer stand for you killing our sons, our daughters, our brothers, our sisters, our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers. Enough is enough. We need change, and we need it now.” (State Legislative Candidate Debate, Time Stamp: 00:18:40, [Citizens Clean Elections Commission](#), 6/17/20)

### **In June 2020, Mendoza Called For “Police Reform And Reallocation Of Funding.”**

“Gunnery Sergeant JoAnna Mendoza wrote: ... ‘Police officers take an oath to protect and serve. Their badge should be a symbol of public trust that they will serve our communities, not terrorize them. This is not an us versus them issue. Police reform and reallocation of funding to public education, healthcare, and other public service programs are long overdue. The recent protests and demands are a sign of both the ongoing work we must do to become a more just and equitable country and the possibility of truly achieving that change.’” (David Gordon, “Why Does Vince Leach Have A Discredited Racist Dog Whistle Editorial Cartoon On His Face Book Page,” [Blog For Arizona](#), 6/22/20)

### **In June 2020, Mendoza Dismissed A Comic About ‘Defunding The Police’ As “Offensive And Fear-Mongering.”**

Vince Leach shared a comic of a woman being robbed by a masked man. The woman says, “Help!! Somebody call 911!” The masked man responds, “Good luck with that, lady ... We defunded the police.” Mendoza then commented on the comic: “By posting these offensive and fear-mongering cartoons, Senator Leach continues to show us his true colors and how divisive he is as an elected official. Read my thoughts on this ...” (JoAnna Mendoza, [Twitter](#), 6/22/20)

### **VIDEO: In July 2020, Citing “Race And Systemic Racism,” Mendoza Said: “I’m Tired That Our Sons And Our Daughters Are Being Beaten And Killed At The Hands Of Law Enforcement.”**

MENDOZA: “I think that it is very interesting that we have elected officials in this district who refuse to talk about race and systemic racism. As a matter of fact, I think that the conversation in your interview was that they were tired of talking about race. They were tired. Well, I’m tired that our sons and our daughters are being beaten and killed at the hands of law enforcement officials who have taken an oath to protect and serve our communities.” (“Mendoza 4 Arizona: I’m Tired Of Failed Leadership. Are You?” Time Stamp: 00:00, [Joanna Mendoza For Arizona](#), 7/26/20)

**Officials With The Flagstaff Police Department Released A Statement Claiming That Reductions To The Annual Budget Impact The Number Of Police Officer Full-Time Equivalent.** “The Flagstaff City Council held a special meeting over police department funding, with members of an activist group wanting the city to reduce the police budget by 55%. Members of a group called flag stats say they want to see money obtained from reduced police funding spent on other agencies. They say they want officers out of schools, as well as fewer people behind bars. ... Officials with the flagstaff police department have released a statement, which reads, in part: Our

officers serve our citizens with pride and integrity. The number of Police personnel serving the community currently accounts for 83% of the Flagstaff Police Department annual budget. Historically when reductions are made to the annual budget this impacts the number of Police Officer full-time equivalents. As demonstrated above, the number of Police Officers serving the Flagstaff community in comparison to the amount of violent and property crime already presents some challenges.” (Jennifer Martinez, “Supporters, Opponents Of Police Defunding Gather At City Hall In Flagstaff,” [Fox 10](#), 4/26/21)