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Ex-lawmaker Thrasher plans run for District 10 House seat

by **Rebekah L. Sanders** - Nov. 14, 2009 07:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

Former [state lawmaker](#) Jackie Thrasher has launched her campaign for the District 10 seat in the Arizona House of Representatives. The election is in August.

Thrasher, a teacher, narrowly lost the seat in 2008 to Rep. Doug Quelland, who could leave office because of campaign-finance violations. The district covers northwest Phoenix and part of Glendale.

This week, a state administrative-law judge upheld a finding in May by the Citizens Clean Elections Commission that Quelland used private funding while running under the state's public campaign-finance scheme and failing to report a \$15,000 political-consultant contract, among other missteps.

In addition to \$30,500 in fines, he could be removed from office. Quelland's lawyer said the Republican lawmaker will contest the decision in [Maricopa County Superior Court](#).

Thrasher, a Democrat, said the case could deepen voters' distrust of politicians.

It's "incumbent on us to restore people's faith in public service," she said.

The Legislature's deadlock on the [state budget](#) also has disillusioned Arizonans, Thrasher said.

More cooperation from both parties is needed, she said, to get state revenues and spending back on track and to plan for the future.

Thrasher outlined her main priorities if elected:

- Fully funding [public education](#) in Arizona.
- Developing the state economy and jobs, in part by reforming the tax system.
- Preserving crucial water and environmental resources.
- Ensuring public safety despite widespread home foreclosures.

Thrasher ran in 2002 and 2004 before winning for the first time in 2006, unseating Quelland. Two representatives are elected every other year for two-year terms in District 10.

Quelland has not yet filed paperwork to seek re-election.

Three other candidates have filed: longtime Rep. Jim Weiers and [Washington Elementary School District](#) board member Bill Adams, both Republicans, and Edy Blackwell, a Democrat.