

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Phoenix, Arizona, showing a dense urban area with a mix of residential and commercial buildings. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the top portion of the image.

**FEDERAL ECONOMIC**

**PROSPERITY PLAN: SMALL**

**BUSINESS ADVANCEMENT**

**YASSAMIN**  
DEMOCRAT FOR CONGRESS

# INTRODUCTION

Congressional District 3 is home to a diverse community of young, hard-working Americans who are looking to achieve their American dream. For many of them however, this dream is met with limitless challenges due in part to their race, family's immigration status, and/or socioeconomic situation. Congressional District 3 is one of the most diverse districts in our country, with over 60 languages being spoken throughout the district, and the bulk of our population being in the minority. We are a community of dreamers, who yearn for economic prosperity, and to achieve their American Dream.

**That is why my campaign is unveiling a Four-Part Policy Plan to create a holistic approach to ensure economic prosperity for all.** Our plan focuses on individual issues that feed into a much larger problem that affects us all; like ensuring the wealthy pay their fair share, understanding ways in which we can support small businesses and strengthen our local economy, lowering costs for working families and strengthening wages and protections for working people.

**In our first plan, we address the ways in which our minority-owned small businesses face barriers to their economic success, and the ways in which we can advocate for systemic change from the top down to ensure that everyone has access to the same resources.**

# THE PROBLEM

## **Entrepreneurial and Economic Capital for Minority-Owned Small Businesses are Inaccessible for These Communities**

In America, race, poverty and wealth are inextricably linked. **Black and Brown communities often face challenges when it comes to economic development, and entrepreneurial capital, even though they start businesses at much higher rates than other groups.** Negative bias prevents these hardworking communities from accessing the capital, equity and resources they need to truly gain economic development for their endeavors. Congressional District 3 has 7,372 small employer businesses (indicated in the last SBA profile census), and these entities require not only revitalization, but resources to ensure their survival, so that they can continue to strengthen our local economy as well. **The systemic nature of blocking these communities from economic equity presents long-lasting implications that will last for generations to come for communities that need them the most.**

# 7,372



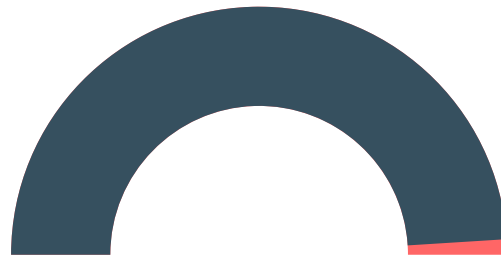
## **SMALL BUSINESSES IN CD3**

## **Economic Inequality is Amplified by Policies Favoring Wealthy Corporations and Large Institutions**

For the first time in American history, the federal government disclosed the racial breakdown of business owners that were awarded government contracts in 2021.

**It was revealed that out of the \$560 billion dollars worth of contracts that were awarded to small business owners in FY2020, only 1.6% of those contracts were awarded to Black and Latino/Hispanic owned small businesses.**

**\$560 million awarded to small businesses**



**1.6% of which was allocated to Black and Latino-owned businesses**

Congressional District 3 is a minority-led district, with 65% of the total population alone being Hispanic or Latino (of any race). When these disparities trickle down from the top at the highest level, we see mass inequities in the distribution of wealth and opportunity to all, but specifically in areas like Congressional District 3. Economic prosperity only happens when we are able to spread opportunity and wealth among our most disenfranchised communities. When large corporations, and already wealthy institutions are first in line for handouts, subsidies and contracts - there is virtually little to nothing left for the small businesses and their owners that keep many of our communities afloat. We must ensure that this stops, and focus on reinvigorating our small businesses that need it the most; not wealthy corporations.

# WHAT YASSAMIN HAS DONE

As Phoenix City Councilwoman and former Vice Mayor, **Yassamin spearheaded efforts to provide financial assistance to local, minority-owned small businesses in the district that were directly impacted by the light rail expansion.** When small businesses were fiscally recovering from the pandemic, she personally met with owners and staff to learn more about their challenges, advocating for city resources to be diverted to them to ensure their continued viability.

When our businesses were plagued by issues regarding rising crime in their areas that threatened their livelihood, **Yassamin stepped up and attended community business meetings, advocated for crime prevention technology, and supported the hiring and training of additional officers and civilians to protect our small businesses.**

**La Olmeca, South Phoenix Mexican restaurant along the South-Central light rail extension**



# WHAT YASSAMIN PLANS TO DO

In Congress, Yassamin plans to ensure that economic equity is no longer out of reach for her constituents, and ensure that everyone can access the same capital and resources they need to thrive. **She will support the creation of lending institutions created solely for minority-owned small businesses and work to reform current laws that forget our underserved communities when it comes to accessing personal and business capital.** She will also work with House Leadership to ensure that the SBA is on track to modernize its effort to support small businesses equitable and fairly.

## THE SOLUTIONS

### Expanding Access to Capital and Support for Communities of Color and Entrepreneurs

**Support the creation and financing of banks and lending institutions for small, minority-owned businesses.** Small businesses are a pathway to economic opportunity for communities of color. However, lower net wealth in Black and Brown communities makes it harder for entrepreneurs to secure credit or loans to sustain and grow their businesses. With small business creation at an all-time high, Congress must take immediate steps to expand access to capital for small, minority-owned businesses.

*Black-owned*



# IN CONGRESS, YASSAMIN WILL PUSH TO:

1

**Reform federal laws to enable the creation and growth of Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority-Owned Deposit Institutions**, which serve low-income communities that are underserved by traditional banks.

2

**Expand federal grants to organizations that support new and aspiring entrepreneurs through business development**, like the Minority Business Development Agency's Capital Readiness Program.

3

**Advocate to strengthen programs that offer bilingual community navigators and resource hubs** to help entrepreneurs and businesses identify and obtain federal funding and programmatic support.

**YASSAMIN**  
DEMOCRAT ⚡ FOR CONGRESS

# SOURCES

1. Wesley Jenkins, “Amid Our ‘Land of Abundance,’ Why Is There so Much Poverty?,” Urban Institute, May 10, 2023, <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/amid-our-land-abundance-why-there-so-much-poverty>.
2. Zeninor Enwemeka. “Black Entrepreneurs Start Businesses at Higher Rates than Other Groups, Analysis Finds.” WBUR News, WBUR, 17 Aug. 2020, <https://www.wbur.org/news/2020/08/17/black-entrepreneurship-research>.
3. Gabrielle Fonrouge, “Venture Capital for Black Entrepreneurs Plummeted 45% in 2022, Data Shows,” CNBC, February 2, 2023, <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/02/02/venture-capital-black-founders-plummeted.html>; Robert Fairlie and Alicia Robb, “Disparities in Capital Access between Minority and Non-Minority-Owned Businesses: The Troubling Reality of Capital Limitations Faced by MBEs,” MBDA.gov (U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency, 2010), <https://www.mbda.gov/sites/default/files/migrated/files-attachments/DisparitiesinCapitalAccessReport.pdf>.
4. Andre M. Perry, Manann Donoghoe, and Hannah Stephens, “Companies Aren’t Disclosing Contracting Data. It’s Hurting Minority-Owned Businesses.,” Brookings Institution, May 15, 2024, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/companies-arent-disclosing-contracting-data-its-hurting-minority-owned-businesses/>.
5. “THE OPPORTUNITY PROJECT: 2021 PROBLEM STATEMENT” (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021), [https://opportunity.census.gov/assets/files/2021-problem-statements/post-covid/MBDA\\_Improving%20Minority%20Businesses%20Access%20to%20Capital.pdf](https://opportunity.census.gov/assets/files/2021-problem-statements/post-covid/MBDA_Improving%20Minority%20Businesses%20Access%20to%20Capital.pdf).
6. “SBA Administrator Guzman: New Census Data Shows Record Pace of Small Business Applications Has Continued under Biden-Harris Administration,” U.S. Small Business Administration, January 18, 2023, <https://www.sba.gov/article/2023/jan/18/sba-administrator-guzman-new-census-data-shows-record-pace-small-business-applications-has-continued>.
7. “Improving Access to Capital for Minority-Owned Businesses” (U.S. Chamber of Commerce, December 15, 2021), [https://www.uschamber.com/assets/documents/CCMC\\_EOreport\\_v3.pdf](https://www.uschamber.com/assets/documents/CCMC_EOreport_v3.pdf).
8. “FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris to Announce Support to Help Historically Underserved Entrepreneurs Tap into Bidenomics-Fueled Small Business Boom,” The White House, August 4, 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/08/04/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-to-announce-support-to-help-historically-underserved-entrepreneurs-tap-into-bidenomics-fueled-small-business-boom/>.
9. “Community Navigators,” U.S. Small Business Administration, n.d., <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/community-navigators>.