



ALERT

October 25, 2017

Fewer Political Candidates Mean Less Voter Choices

Slowly but surely a trend has been developing with our city elections: Fewer candidates have been running for both the City Council and the SUSD Governing Board.

Obviously, that means voters' choices of candidates are limited.

In 2012, 11 candidates ran for 3 seats on the City Council. Two years later, 8 candidates campaigned for 3 council seats. And last year, 4 candidates were on the ballot for 3 seats.

Meanwhile ... in 2012, 3 candidates ran for 3 seats on the SUSD School Board. Five candidates campaigned for 3 seats on the board in 2014. And last year, 3 candidates ran for 3 seats.

Potential Candidate Snapshots

Council incumbents Kathy Littlefield and Linda Milhaven have announced their candidacies for 2018. Councilman David Smith is still keeping everyone guessing about his intention.

There are others who are, may or should consider candidacies:

Larry Kush: Currently serving his second term on the Planning Commission, Kush has a depth of knowledge about the city's issues beyond land use topics. He's opinionated and isn't afraid to speak his mind. Kush could be exceptionally tough competition for other candidates on the campaign trail.

Dan Schweiker: Even though he lost his bid for the council last year, there are plenty of people who believe Schweiker learned a lot about how to mount a viable campaign from the mistakes he made in 2016. He's a political moderate who sees himself as a

mediator between different factions on a variety of issues.

Jason Alexander: The spokesman for the No DDC organization has been building a voter base for more than a year. Thought to be a one-issue candidate, Alexander is a quick study who has educated himself on an assortment of issues. He would be a formidable candidate in public forums and a workhorse at organizing grassroots support.

Bill Crawford: As a businessman, Crawford continues to be active in issues that impact downtown businesses and residents. While he has failed to succeed in past efforts for elected office, Crawford has the support of Mayor Lane and, as a result, access to Lane's fundraising network.

Michael Auerbach: The unsuccessful council candidate in 2014 has been lurking around City Hall for several months - which may signal that Auerbach is contemplating another attempt to fill one of three seats up for grabs. He's an ultra conservative who, if he decides to run, would probably get support from the most conservative areas in North Scottsdale.

Potential Candidate Snapshots

There will be two seats open on the SUSD Governing Board in 2018. Incumbents Kim Hartmann and Pam Kirby, whose terms are up, haven't announced their intentions.

Currently, there are three potential challengers:

Patty Beckman: A possible candidate who has emerged during the dispute about how SUSD is handling the rebuild of Hopi and Kiva elementary schools, Beckman is a stickler for facts. With a background in finance, she is articulate and has proved she has a grasp of the school district administration's shortcomings.

Karen Treon: As the co-chair of Yes To Children's past two successful campaigns, Treon knows just about everything there is to know about SUSD, its Governing Board and administration. She's an attorney with an aptitude for detail. Treon is committed to making SUSD's administrators accountable to taxpayers.

Mike Peabody: Another potential candidate who has surfaced during this year's parent-teacher grassroots movement, Peabody is the president of the Scottsdale Parent Council. He knows school district issues inside and out. Peabody has also demonstrated his leadership capabilities during a particularly turbulent time for SUSD.



BITE ME!

This week's best sound bite comes from Patty Beckman. After reading Barbara Perleberg's column in the *Scottsdale Independent* in which she wrote: "I recently saw a sign in a construction zone that said: "Pardon Our Dust During Construction - Today's Pain, Tomorrow's Gain" - Beckman posted:

"I am sorry, Ms. Perleberg, I will respectfully disagree. What we are facing is not just construction dust. We need to REBUILD - and I am going to say it: The rebuild may have to start with the School Board."

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Voice of Scottsdale, 7620 E. McKellips Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85257