



May 15, 2024

Ballotpedia 2024 Candidate Survey – (Partial list of questions answered – please visit [https://ballotpedia.org/Bob\\_Karp](https://ballotpedia.org/Bob_Karp) to get updated information)

**Do you believe that compromise is necessary or desirable for policymaking?**

There is a difference between necessary and desirable. I think my approach to policymaking would be to not begin by assuming that every policy must have compromise. If I believe in a policy and believe it is in the best interests of the people of Arizona, I would be open to compromise that keeps key elements of the policy intact while making changes to achieve a desirable result. Being dogmatic about policy is not a good thing.

**What do you believe is the ideal relationship between the governor and the state legislature?**

The governor runs the executive branch and should be given the latitude to make executive decisions without the interference of the legislature. However, the legislature has an obligation for oversight of the administration and its functions. The governor needs to reach out and solicit advice and cooperation from both the majority and minority parties in the state legislature, particularly as it relates to the budget. A good working relationship between the two branches of government creates results that can be supported by more people from the state. I do not believe the legislature should interfere with the administrative branch of government by refusing to confirm appointments or threatening lawsuits of duly elected statewide office holders.

**What do you perceive to be your state's greatest challenges over the next decade?**

Getting the budget under control by reigning in the ESA Voucher program that is decimating public school funding and the state budget. Funding public schools at a level that makes Arizona competitive with other states nationally. Passing legislation that protects groundwater resources from over pumping by large-scale industrial agriculture interests in rural areas. Making sure that our students have the best possible curriculum and resources rather than arguing about allowing more religion in the classroom.

Reforming the budget process and stopping more tax cuts that benefit the wealthy and special interests which creates a climate of disinvestment in infrastructure that allows our state to fall further behind.

Codifying through legislation women's healthcare freedom to protect access to abortion, IVF and contraception services.

Stopping "culture war" performative politics that only divides us.

**Do you believe that it's beneficial for state legislators to have previous experience in government or politics?**

Not necessarily. It is important to have leaders that bring new ideas and are willing to work with all elected officials.

**What committees interest you?**

Judiciary, Commerce, Finance, Transportation & Public Safety, Water & Agriculture



**Is there a particular legislator, past or present, whom you want to model yourself after?**

State Senator Juan Mendez who doesn't always agree with the Democratic Party caucus, works hard, and reaches out to help new candidates run for office.

**Are you interested in running for a different political office (for example the U.S. Congress or governor) in the future?**

No

**Both sitting legislators and candidates for office hear many personal stories from residents of their district. Is there a story that you've heard that you found particularly touching, memorable, or impactful?**

I was at an event in the Willcox area and heard from a constituent in the northern part of Cochise County right on the border of Graham county. She told me about ground subsidence on her property that has made her property unsellable. She cannot afford to move and is about to have her well go dry. This is not someone down in the Sunsites/Pearce area of the Willcox basin, next to the huge dairies. But the water crisis is affecting small property owners who suffer without getting any notice or help from local elect officeholders.

**Should the legislature oversee or grant the use of emergency powers?**

Emergencies require a decisive voice. Involve a state legislature in this and you immediately politicize it. We elected a governor to run the administration of the state. Let the governor do her job. However, that doesn't mean that the legislature shouldn't weigh in with hearings. But the governor should have the authority to make decisions in the event of a declared emergency.

I had the same answer when Governor Ducey was in charge back during the 2020 pandemic. This has nothing to do with the party of the governor.

**What is the first bill you would introduce if elected?**

To codify access to abortion, IVF and contraception services. Right after that, the repeal of the ESA Vouchers with a framework for returning the program to its original intent to help special needs students not getting resources from the local public school.