



For Arizona State Senate

## **Ballotpeida ([Ballotpeida.org/Bob\\_Karp](http://Ballotpeida.org/Bob_Karp)) 2020 Survey**

### **Who are you? Tell us about yourself.**

Cochise County since 2005, Sierra Vista, AZ since 2011; Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, UCLA, 1971; Owner, Protair Corporation, Los Angeles CA, aerospace machine shop, 16 years 1971-1986 Developer/owner, WinResources Computing, Carlsbad CA, software development company; 50+ employees; \$2.5 million annual payroll 1987-2001; Owner, Karp Properties LLC real estate brokerage, Sierra Vista, AZ 2011-Current; Member Board of Directors , Southeast Arizona Association of REALTORS 2013-2015 2015 President, Southeast Arizona Association of REALTORS and Southeast Arizona Multiple Listing Service, Sierra Vista AZ Member, City of Sierra Vista Planning & Zoning Commission 2018 - 2019

### **Please list below 3 key messages of your campaign. What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?**

- I am running for Arizona State Representative because I believe that democracy is best served by a vigorous discussion of the issues facing our state government. For too long opposing viewpoints are routinely ignored by our state elected officials. A strong multi-party system helps ensure that those in power are held accountable by the voters.
- As a business owner with a background in manufacturing, technology, and now real estate, I bring a real-world perspective to the decisions needed to create sustained economic growth with good paying jobs in rural southeastern Arizona.
- The Republicans have controlled the Arizona legislature for 50 plus years. The results are under investment in education, infrastructure and healthcare. It is time for new leadership.

### **What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?**

Changing tax policy Reform of the budget process Creating economic growth in rural Arizona

### **Who do you look up to? Whose example would you like to follow, and why?**

Even though my father has been dead for 20 years I still respect him and try to follow his example. He was incredibly honest in all aspects of his life. Most significantly as a business owner he always made decisions based on what was best for his employees first and then the business second. My entire professional life has been modeled on that simple rule.

### **Is there a book, essay, film, or something else you would recommend to someone who wants to understand your political philosophy?**



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"The Corruption of American Politics: What Went Wrong and Why" by Elizabeth Drew

**What characteristics or principles are most important for an elected official?**

Honesty and integrity; intellect; civility; ability to be open to ideas not your own; a work ethic; respectfulness

**What qualities do you possess that you believe would make you a successful officeholder?**

Intelligence, ability to listen, doing the work to understand the issues by getting the most information available, staying on subject when asked a question, answering honestly regardless of the consequences.

**What do you believe are the core responsibilities for someone elected to this office?**

Work hard every day. Look at the big picture, not just your own self-interest. Ask tough questions. Do not accept the conventional wisdom. Listen to your constituents respectfully. Work with everybody, even those members of the other party. Listen more than speak. To represent all interests within my district. To lead rather than follow. To believe in a set of values and publicly stand for them.

**What legacy would you like to leave?**

I don't believe in legacies - it is presumptuous to elevate oneself to that level.

**What is the first historical event that happened in your lifetime that you remember? How old were you at the time?**

The assassination of John F. Kennedy. I was 15.

**What was your very first job? How long did you have it?**

I worked wiring electrical harnesses for coin-operated shoe shine machines in my father's machine shop. I worked there in the summer of my senior year in high school.[]

**What is your favorite book? Why?**

Fer-de-Lance by Rex Stout which introduced me to the wonderful world of Nero Wolfe

**If you could be any fictional character, who would you want to be?**

Patrick James from the Mentalist. Funny, clever, smart with a bit of snark. He gets to solve crimes without ever having to get physical.

**What was the last song that got stuck in your head?**



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Smile by Charlie Chaplan

**What is something that has been a struggle in your life?**

Fear of living as an open gay man.

**Every state besides Nebraska has two legislative chambers. What do you consider the most important differences between the legislative chambers in your state?**

There is no significant difference between the Arizona state Senate and House other than numbers. Arizona state legislators represent 30 districts, one senator for each and 2 representatives. More importantly all serve for just two years. So Structurally and politically there is little difference between the two.

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

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

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

This is how I answered the question in 2018: Creating an education master plan for Arizona that focuses on higher education Reform of the budget process Creating economic growth in rural Arizona Because of the pandemic the most important issue is the financial stability of the state and meeting the challenge of reduced state revenues. We must shore up the state healthcare system, unemployment insurance funding, while minimizing disruption to state and local government services by insuring a high level of employment. Prior to the last few months, I believed that the biggest three issues were water rights, under investment in public education and under investment in infrastructure particularly as it relates to the rural areas of the state.

**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 of people of the state.

**Do you believe it's beneficial to build relationships with other legislators? Please explain your answer.**



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Yes, there should be respectful working relationships with other legislators. This is even more critical in Arizona as you have the possibility of elected officials of different parties representing the same district. It is acceptable to disagree about policy, but we should strive to be respectful, and even get to know each other on a personal level.

**If you are not a current legislator, are there certain committees that you would want to be a part of?**

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

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

I don't think I want to "model" myself after any particular state legislator, I want to find my own way. However, State Senator Andrea Dalessandro is someone I respect for her work ethic, passionate support of issues in which she believes, and service to her constituents.

**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 the residents of their district. Is there a story that you've heard that you found particularly touching, memorable, or impactful?**

I remember two moments that gave me a perspective that I did not have. A state CPS employee came up to me and asked me to please advocate for fairer pay schedules for people in state government. She has been working in the department for 10 plus years and said she has never gotten a raise more than the cost of living and is barely making over what will be the \$15 and hour minimum wage in 2021. She doesn't understand how someone working at a fast food restaurant could make more than she does after her years of service to the state. The other is a teacher who showed me a U.S. government textbook that was in terrible condition and was at least 10 years old. He said this is what his students share in class because there are not enough copies for each student to take home. That clearly puts public education funding issues right into the classroom.