



Sean Bowie

ARIZONA STATE SENATE DISTRICT 18

SISTER DISTRICT POLICY SCORECARD

This candidate has pledged commitment to the following statements:

- ✓ We must protect a **woman's right to choose** the health care and reproductive services she wants and needs.
- ✓ We need to protect and expand our **social safety net**, not dismantle it.
- ✓ We should pursue **common-sense gun safety** policies, consistent with the Second Amendment and local community standards and needs, which vary from community to community.
- ✓ Climate change is real and we need to **protect our environment**.

TIMELINE & VOTER INFO

Election Day: November 6, 2018

Last day to register: 29 days before Election Day.

Voter IDs: Voters must bring [a valid ID](#) to the polls in order to vote.

Vote by mail: Any registered Arizona voter may apply for an absentee ballot and vote by mail. The application must be received by 5pm on the second Friday before Election Day.

Nested Congressional Districts: 9

BACKGROUND

Sean is the incumbent candidate in this district, currently representing Legislative District 18 in the Arizona State Senate. LD18 includes Ahwatukee, south Tempe, west Chandler, and southwest Mesa.



Since graduating from ASU, Sean has fought for good, sensible public policy at all levels of government-- from the local level all the way to Capitol Hill. Sean has worked with stakeholders and elected officials on a range of projects, including education reform, expanding access to health care and protecting Social Security. Through these endeavors, he has sought to make government more effective and responsive to the needs of a 21st-century economy.

After receiving his Master's degree in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University in 2013, Sean worked as a management consultant, working with Fortune 500 companies from across the globe.

ON THE ISSUES

In his own words:

Education

As your state senator, my most important priority is to help restore education funding and protect our local public schools and state universities.

This is personal for me. My family first moved to

our community over twenty years ago, drawn to our local public schools and quality way of life. I once sat in the same classrooms that now have larger class sizes, outdated textbooks, and overworked and underpaid teachers.

Our legislature has failed to invest and protect our local schools. When given the opportunity, they have chosen to use state resources on things like for-profit prisons, tax cuts for corporations that never asked for them, and money for special interests.

Those are not the priorities of our community, and they are definitely not mine. As your state senator, I pledge to:

Make education my number one budgetary priority. Budgets are about priorities, and when voting on the state budget, nothing will be as important to me as investing in our schools. The cuts our schools have seen since 2008 are devastating and catastrophic; I will work diligently with both sides of the aisle to restore the cuts to our K-12 schools and strengthen our commitment to education.

With Arizona currently ranked 49th in starting salaries for our K-12 teachers, action needs to be taken to better support them and strengthen their impact on the next generation of Arizonans.

Prioritize our teachers and make investments in our classrooms. Arizona lags far behind the national average in teacher salaries. If we are serious about strengthening our education system and keeping our best teachers, we need to show them we are committed to their success. Through investing in our teachers, we can strengthen our K-12 schools and grow our economy. As your Senator, I will continue to promote education and support funding for our teachers and resources in their classrooms.

Restore the cuts to higher education. This is also personal for me. I saw the effects of budget cuts every day when I worked in the Provost's office at ASU. I helped work to make college more affordable for low-income families, increased resources for first-year students, and expanded access to people all across the globe. Since 2008, Arizona has cut more from higher

education than any state in the country, a cut of nearly 50 percent. This has led to drastic increases in tuition, fees, and other costs. I graduated from ASU in 2008; since then, tuition has almost TRIPLED.

This unnecessary and excessive reduction in higher education investment is having a dramatic impact on our state, both economically and culturally. Our state simply cannot compete in a 21st-century economy by reducing investment in our state universities. As your state senator, I am fighting every single day for our universities, and working with them to strengthen our local economy.

Economy

Along with education, strengthening our economy and encouraging investment and job growth is a top priority of mine.

Stopping the giveaways to special interests and corporations. Arizona has spent far too much money over the years in giveaways to special interests and corporations, with little to show for the generosity. Our state still lags the rest of the county in economic well-being, educational outcomes, and investment.

Instead of steering more money to tax cuts, I believe our focus should be on investing in our economic future. That includes investing in our schools, promoting tax reform to help provide a more stable source of state revenue for future years, and stopping the blank checks to the for-profit prison industry.

Promoting a culture of inclusiveness and hospitality. Arizona has received a fair share of negative attention over the years as a result of the actions of our legislature.

As your state senator, I am fighting for policies that roll out the welcome mat for Arizona businesses and their employees, and avoid the partisan rhetoric that our legislators exhibit each session. For example, one of my main priorities at the capitol will be to pass an Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), so that our LGBT friends do not need to worry that they will lose their jobs or their homes because of their sexual orientation. It's upsetting to me that this policy

isn't already in place, and I'll fight to make sure it is.

Immigration

We must secure the border. I support giving our border patrol agents the resources they need to protect our state and our border. Above all, I will listen to the law enforcement community from our county sheriffs to local police and provide them with the tools they need to do their jobs effectively. I will also work with our federal congressional delegation to ensure that Congress funds our border efforts.

2nd Amendment

I am a strong supporter of the second amendment, and I will protect the rights of gun owners already in place at the state level. I do not, however, support allowing guns on college campuses or in government buildings. Additionally, I agree with the vast majority of gun owners and support requiring background checks for all gun purchases to ensure that firearms do not fall into the hands of criminals or those with mental health issues.

Save the Lakes

As an Ahwatukee resident, and as someone who attended Mountain Pointe High School next door, I strongly support saving the lakes property. I do not support housing development on the land, and will work to protect the space as a public park or golf course. I will work with the city of Phoenix and other stakeholders to ensure that this space is protected from development.

WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?

Arizona has 30 House Districts that each elect two representatives for a total of 60 representatives. Republicans control 35 of 60 seats, so Democrats are within striking distance of taking control of the lower chamber.

Republicans have controlled the State House since 1966, albeit at times with very thin majorities. Three districts in the House voted for Clinton, but are represented by a GOP legislator or have at least 1 GOP representative.

While Arizona may only offer a handful of

electoral votes in a presidential election, the state will feature a hotly contested U.S. Senate race for Jeff Flake's seat. Beyond that, the age and failing health of Senator John McCain will also pose an open seat in the coming years as well.

Arizona is a new opportunity for Democrats to bring together a strong coalition of Latinos, Native Americans, and Moderates who want to see functional governance in an era of political chaos.

REDISTRICTING IN ARIZONA

The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission is responsible for drawing both congressional and state legislative district lines. The commission is composed of five members. Of these, four are selected by the majority and minority leaders of each chamber of the state legislature from a list of 25 candidates nominated by the state commission on appellate court appointments. These 25 nominees comprise 10 Democrats, 10 Republicans, and 5 unaffiliated citizens. The four commission members appointed by legislative leaders then select the fifth member to round out the commission. The fifth member of the commission must belong to a different political party than the other commissioners. The governor, with a two-thirds vote in the Arizona State Senate, may remove a commissioner "for substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct in office, or inability to discharge the duties of office." The Arizona State Legislature may make recommendations to the commission, but ultimate authority is vested with the commission.

The Arizona Constitution requires that both congressional and state legislative districts be "contiguous, geographically compact, and respect communities of interest—all to the extent practicable." The state constitution further mandates that district lines "should [follow] visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts." In addition, the constitution requires that "competitive districts be favored where doing so would not significantly detract from the goals above."

MORE ABOUT ARIZONA

Arizona is home to a unique mix of partisan elements on all sides. Sheriff Joe Arpaio, prominent Trump supporter and immigrant fear monger, was the Sheriff of Maricopa County for decades before finally being unseated in 2016. This is contrasted with GOP U.S. Senator Jeff Flake who, while voting nearly 100% with Trump, also donated to the Doug Jones campaign for Alabama Senate and has been a vocal critic of the GOP's lurch rightward.

While there are strong, right-wing elements in AZ there is also a rising moderate and Democratic demographic as well. The influx of retirees and immigrants matched with the hard right turn of the GOP lately has made Arizona one of the best new pickup opportunities outside of the normal Southern battleground states like North Carolina, Virginia, and Florida.

CANDIDATE LINKS

SDP Fundraising link: www.crowdpac.com/campaigns/382743/sister-district-for-sean-bowie

Website: www.seanbowieforaz.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/seanbowieforaz

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/seanbowie>