

# Bobby Tyler

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 6

## 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:** 1, 4

## PAST RESULTS

### 2016 Presidential Election

Hillary Clinton (D)	42,179	41.7%
Donald Trump (R)	52,696	52.1%

## 2016 State Legislature Election

Democrat:	44,229	31.40%
Republican:	48,999	34.80%

## Cook Partisan Voting Index

AZ-01: R+2; AZ-04: R+21

## BACKGROUND

Bobby Tyler is the current Mayor of Holbrook, and a third-generation Arizonan from McNary, AZ. His family originally migrated from Louisiana to Arizona for better opportunities and higher wages—something he wants to bring back to northern Arizona.

Bobby has lived a life of public service. After completing public high school, he went to work for the City of Holbrook first as a truck driver, and later in the maintenance department as a maintenance helper and a fuel handler. A few years later, he was awarded a machinist apprenticeship. He has also volunteered as a firefighter and a citizens' police officer for

a combined thirteen years with the City of Holbrook.

Bobby spent over 33 years working in the power industry, in a variety of positions and assignments, including as a safety officer, training firefighters in the safety of fire behavior and power plant mechanics in fundamentals of the trade. He has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 387 Union steward as well as 1607 Millright carpenters union.

Bobby has been on the Holbrook City Council since 2011 and Mayor of Holbrook since 2015, and he is running to be the voice that the State leaders have forgotten: the struggling young families trying to make ends meet, and people struggling to find a job with benefits and a fair wage.

## **ON THE ISSUES**

### **Jobs**

After working for over 33 years in the power industry, I know the importance of good paying jobs in a growing economy, job retention, and business development. When one chooses to raise their families in Northern Arizona, they need to be able to provide for their family. Northern Arizona should have the same job opportunities and safety as is provided in Phoenix. Workers are being impacted by the closing of some local coal power plants, now more than ever we need to work together with the local utility companies on creating and sustaining renewable clean jobs.

### **Education**

Northern Arizona public schools are vital to the success of our children. Many of the students in Holbrook School district travel from the Navajo Nation, a commute of 1 to 2 hours by school bus or family member. The voucher program would affect my school district in funding, by taking money away from our more rural districts.

In addition to ensure not only our school funding is not being taken away, but being increased, we need to revert back to funding our trade school programs. Many students won't go off to college and that's okay, but we need to have options for them. I went to a trade school - apprenticeship program that was funded, in part, by the state. We need to work with the Unions and make it

available to all students in the last 2 years of High school. This is similar to the opportunity I was given, and have been able to do quite well for myself thanks to the education I was awarded.

In order to be competitive in the global economy and prepare our youth for the world, we cannot continue to support both a budget that takes money from our schools, and programs that lessen the qualifications for our teachers.

## **ABOUT THE INCUMBENT & OTHER OPPONENTS:**

Brenda Barton is term-limited and cannot seek reelection this year. The other LD6 house seat is held by Republican Bob Thorpe, who is seeking reelection. There are two other Republicans running for the two LD6 house seats in 2018: Stuart McDaniel-R, and Walt Blackman-R.

Thorpe, who was first elected by LD6 voters in 2012, is a retired computer and software consultant and educator. During his time in office he has spearheaded efforts to increase state control over federal lands, and he supports reducing government regulation. Last year he ran a bill that would have prohibited college students from voting in the place where they go to school.

McDaniel, who lives in Flagstaff, emphasized his work on behalf of the business community around Flagstaff. He's also touting his involvement in the Elevate Flagstaff campaign, which placed a repeal of the city's voter-approved minimum wage on the 2018 ballot.

Blackman served in the U.S. Army for 22 years. His campaign website states that Blackman is "determined to take a stand for the families and decency in public discourse."

## **ABOUT THE DISTRICT**

LD-6 reaches from the Grand Canyon, through Flagstaff and Sedona and east through Payson to the White Mountains. The population is over 216,000, and Flagstaff is the largest metropolitan area.

## **WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?**

Arizona has 30 Legislative Districts that each elect one senator and two representatives, for a total of

30 senators and 60 representatives. Republicans control 35 of 60 seats, meaning Democrats are just 6 seats away from taking control of the lower chamber.

Republicans have controlled the State House since 1966, albeit at times with very thin majorities.

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 Latinx, Native Americans, Independents 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**

Website: <http://tyler4ruralaz.nationbuilder.com>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Tyler4RuralAZ](http://www.facebook.com/Tyler4RuralAZ)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bobby4ruralaz>

SDP ActBlue Link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-az-tyler>