

Ash column:

Josh Brodesky made a good effort in his Sunday political piece but he misses the real point of the disagreement between Steve Kozachik and the Republican Party.

Despite Mr. Kozachik's failure to understand the bigger political picture in Arizona and his self-serving barbs at various Republican elected officials there has been limited disagreement about many of the policy decisions that Councilman Kozachik has made in his official capacity with rank and file members of the GOP.

Before Steve ran in 2009 he explained he was a small (r) Republican. He has proven to be pretty much what he advertised. After all this is Tucson and not Phoenix and this explains his popularity at times that reaches across the aisle.

The problem with Steve Kozachik is he does not really understand how politics works.

More importantly the problem with Steve Kozachik is about his trustworthiness.

During his 2009 council campaign Steve was upset that Mayor Bob Walkup would not give him an endorsement. I don't blame him. So were the rest of Republican officials. Despite the lack of a mayoral endorsement Steve narrowly won his election with a huge amount of help from GOP volunteers, donors and other elected officials in a hard fought election against a popular incumbent.

Now skip forward to the 2011 council election.....the same people who helped Steve in 2009 came to him and asked the lone Republican elected official on the Tucson Council for an endorsement for Jennifer Rawson and Tyler Vogt. Steve Kozachik told us he "did not believe in endorsements." Steve said "no one cared" who he endorsed and would not issue a formal endorsement for the candidates of his own party. With his support we might have elected two more Republicans to the Tucson City Council. Steve selfishly withheld his support of two great candidates and against the interests of the city he has taken an oath to serve.

For a fellow who refused to give an endorsement to candidates of his own party just a few months earlier it was a kick in the pants when it took about 3 1/2 seconds for Steve Kozachik to endorse Democrat Richard Carmona and Democrat Ron Barber in their election bids. For anyone who questions why he faces problems within the Republican Party system now you know the real story--notwithstanding whatever Mr Kozachik might say to the contrary--he has not treated members of his own political party with honesty.

I won't even get into his bizarre plan to effectively change The US Constitution to fit Steve's altered reality of election law when he suggested no special election was required in CD8. Article 1, Section 2, of the US Constitution states:

"When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of election to fill such vacancies." What part of "shall" don't you grasp, Steve?

Steve's political behavior is not "independent". It is erratic. He wouldn't support Republican candidates favored by his friends and neighbors but would give unqualified support to Democrat candidates supported by the likes of Chuck Schumer and Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

The problem is not that Steve disagrees with the Republican Party but that he is so downright disagreeable. When Steve voted against 2nd amendment rights and for radical zoning policy officials in the Pima GOP barely spoke above a whisper. The Pima GOP has shown it has plenty of room for many divergent beliefs but any party would lose patience with someone fond of constantly trying to stick his fingers in your eyes as much as Mr. Kozachik.

Steve Kozachik may find that his re election in 2013 will be made more difficult by the events he has created for himself and not the Pima Republican Party.

Politics is a team sport Mr. Kozachik.