

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

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Advocacy



During the past week's run-up to the Primary Election, I've shared background on several issues we'll be facing in the coming months. Those included the budget, pensions, economic and land use development, and a spending limit increase. The intent has been to drive home the point that we are dealing with significantly important topics each week at the Council table. For that reason, your participation in the election is an important statement in the process. Today is election day. Please don't sit it out.

Of all the topics I've shared, I think this one is my favorite. That's because being an advocate implies that the causes are ones that mean a lot to me. Otherwise, I wouldn't take on the extra work.

Since 2009, I've gotten involved in a variety of these advocacy issues. Here's a list of just a few – to refresh your memory as to where we've been together since my first term in office began:

The 911 center was in disarray – over the course of several months you saw extensive media coverage that chronicled my successful effort to get things headed in the right direction in that very key department.

The Tucson Greyhound Park was contracting with an unscrupulous veterinarian who was driving racing greys into the City limits and injecting them with steroids. I exposed that, and followed up by leading the Council in adopting a ban on such injections within City limits.

The voters approved a project in the 2006 RTA package that would widen a 2 mile segment of Broadway in a way that would result in the demolition of over 115 businesses and historic homes. I have continued to be very vocal in urging for a design that preserves as many of those structures as possible, creating an urban destination, keeping the roadway functional and saving millions of taxpayer dollars.

The State Legislature has continually passed legislation that is aimed directly at Tucson and Pima County. I have been very public in my opposition to such legislation, even when it was sponsored by members of my own political party.

The State has routinely failed to adopt a texting-while-driving ban, despite data that clearly demonstrates how dangerous an activity it is. I led the fight to get a texting ban adopted in the City of Tucson.



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police Department

911 or 791-4444
nonemergency

Mayor & Council Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance 791-3154

Planning and Development Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas

889-1888

Gas Emergency/ Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus

Hotline

243-7999

Environment

Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal

792-2489

AZ Game & Fish

628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

Another area in which the sense of Tucson constituents is at odds with the leadership in the State Legislature is the issue of gun control. Beginning with the Buy-Back, and continuing with background checks, reporting lost or stolen weapons, and adopting a Blood Alcohol standard for firing a weapon, I've been steady on the firing line of proposing and advocating for changes we can make locally that avoid the restrictive Statutory language the State has imposed on us.

Arizona used to be a leader in major film production. That was before we were the only State in the Western Region to fail to have any incentives in place to lure production companies. Where the State has again failed to bring us into a competitive position by enacting new incentives, I have been working with members of the local film industry to come up with local incentives. If they don't want film workers up in Phoenix, we'll take the jobs down here. This is a work in progress – and a fight worth having.

In each of the cases listed above, the work involved has been energizing, and at the same time with its moments of frustration. And yet, you can't hit the ball if you don't keep swinging the bat. I've been 'all in' on these issues, and the results have been positive for our community.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
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