



2024 Salt River Project (SRP) Candidate Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions so that Arizonans whose electricity is provided by SRP can learn more about what you hope to accomplish if elected to the board of governors and councilors. We plan to make all responses available through our website.

What is your name?

My name is Dr. Ashley Hodge.

Why are you running for a position on SRP's board of directors and councilors?

I am seeking a position on SRP's board of directors and councilors to champion environmental justice, ensuring our transition to a clean energy economy is equitable and just. My goal is to safeguard clean air and potable water for the prosperity of future generations.

I am one of fourteen candidates are vying to establish a board and council with a focus on climate issues for the country's largest power generator. Securing a majority is possible by increasing the number of people requesting a ballot, as currently, only 2% of SRP ratepayers participate in the vote.

We are running to safeguard the interests of over 1.2 million SRP ratepayers while promoting a shift towards a clean-energy economy and away from fossil fuels like coal and gas sourced from other states. Arizona, being the sunniest state in the nation, possesses all the necessary resources to spearhead the transition to renewable energy. By prioritizing solar energy, which is both cost-effective and reliable, increased investment in solar infrastructure will enhance affordability and ensure reliability.

What type(s) of energy resources do you want to see SRP build more of?

I will advocate for SRP to prioritize the development of solar energy with battery storage, hydroelectric, geothermal, and wind due to the significant environmental benefits.

Do you think that SRP should make it easier for customers to install solar on their homes and businesses? If so, how would you achieve this?

Yes, facilitating easier access to solar energy for customers is crucial for promoting renewable energy adoption and achieving sustainability goals. SRP can implement incentives and initiatives to make it more cost effective for customers to install solar panels on their homes and businesses. This could include offering rebates or subsidies to offset the initial installation costs, providing low-interest financing options, or establishing net metering programs that allow customers to receive credits for excess electricity generated by their solar panels.

Do you believe that the credit SRP provides to customers who have solar is fair compensation for the energy they provide to the grid? If not, what changes would you propose?

I'm currently unfamiliar with the specifics of energy compensation, but I'm committed to learning more and finding the most effective approach moving forward.

What is your position on the customer charges and demand charges that SRP currently charges to solar customers?

Solar customers should not have to pay any additional charges from other residential customers.

Do you think SRP should encourage adoption of residential battery storage by its customers? If so, how?

SRP should encourage residential battery storage adoption by offering financial incentives, educational programs on benefits like energy independence, grid resilience, and cost savings, and collaborating with communities to develop supportive policies. This multi-faceted approach will promote adoption among SRP customers.

Should SRP help its customers be more energy efficient? If so, how?

SRP should support customer energy efficiency through programs, incentives, and promoting energy-efficient appliances. Rebates and incentives for upgrades or

participation in energy-saving initiatives can help customers reduce consumption and bills, fostering sustainability.

Should SRP help customers integrate electric vehicles? If so, how?

While not a current priority, SRP should eventually support customers in adopting electric vehicles through incentives, charging stations, discounted rates, education, and collaboration with local entities. These initiatives can drive electric adoption, cut emissions, and enhance sustainability.

Do you think SRP should work to increase customer participation in its elections? If so, how would you achieve this?

SRP's efforts should focus on enhancing customer involvement in its elections, aiming to make the voting process more inclusive and representative. It's imperative to move away from a system where voting rights are contingent upon land ownership, as this can disproportionately favor certain demographics and undermine the principle of equality. Instead, SRP should adopt policies that ensure every customer, regardless of their property holdings, has an equal opportunity to participate in the electoral process and have their voice heard. This could involve implementing measures such as expanding voting eligibility criteria to encompass all customers, regardless of property ownership, and promoting awareness campaigns to encourage broader participation. By prioritizing inclusivity and fairness in its electoral practices, SRP can foster a more democratic decision-making environment that truly reflects the diverse interests and perspectives of its customer base.

What are your views on customer participation in SRP's planning process and stakeholder meetings?

Customer participation in SRP's planning and stakeholder meetings is crucial for transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. Engaging customers in these processes ensures their voices are heard and leads to more informed decision-making that aligns with community needs. I strongly support robust customer participation as it strengthens the relationship between SRP and its customers while enhancing governance and service delivery.

Is there anything else that you want to make sure voters know about you?

I am a proud South Phoenix native and the current Governing Board Clerk in Roosevelt School District (RSD). As someone who has deep roots in this community, I am honored to serve in a role that allows me to give back to the place that has shaped me into who I am today.

Being a third-generation member to promote from RSD holds significant personal meaning to me. It not only speaks to the enduring legacy of educational excellence within our district but also underscores my family's enduring commitment to the betterment of our community through education.

Furthermore, as a social worker with a steadfast dedication to advocating for the best interests of individuals and communities, I carry this commitment into every facet of my work. Whether it's in my role within RSD, as a Trustee on the Arizona School Board Association Insurance Trust, National Coalition of 100 Black Women Education Co-Chair or in any other capacity, I am unwavering in my determination to serve and advocate for those who need it most.

To learn more about me and our slate of dynamic candidates please visit our website. <https://srpcleanenergy.org/candidates/dr-ashley-hodge/>

Solar United Neighbors is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that works in Arizona and nationwide to represent the needs and interests of solar owners and supporters.