



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?

Roberta Neil Miller

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

I am running as a consumer advocate for over 1.2 SRP ratepayers and to advance a climate-friendly energy transition away from fossil fuels in Arizona. Arizona has more than 300 days of continuous sunshine a year and should be the nation's leader in the use and production of solar energy.

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

All renewables, including solar with battery storage, hydroelectric, geothermal, and wind.

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. In 2015, SRP changed its policies that promoted rooftop solar adoption, reduced the solar credit, and imposed customer and demand charges that discouraged solar rooftop adoption. Rooftop solar installations declined significantly after these new policies were adopted. All of these policies should be repealed, and SRP should restore the pre-2015 solar incentives. Customers are more likely to install solar if the upfront investment in installation can be recouped through energy savings within a reasonable period of time.

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?

No, as I indicate above that credit was greatly reduced in February 2015 and solar adoption significantly declined. Furthermore, rooftop solar energy producers actively produce electricity during peak production times that they then sell back to SRP, which SRP then sells to other users at substantially higher rates. Thus, rooftop solar offers more resilience to the electrical grid by providing an additional source of power during high-demand periods. The benefits provided by rooftop solar energy producers should accordingly be reflected in higher buy back rates. The pre-2015 benefits should be restored.

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

The customer and demand charges that SRP currently charges to solar customers discourages households from installing rooftop solar systems. This is poor public policy. Adoption of rooftop solar should be encouraged and incentivized, not discouraged. The customer and demand charges should be repealed.

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

Yes. Residential battery storage builds resilience into electricity distribution and helps reduce overall demand on the grid. Battery storage can be incentivized through rebates for a portion of the cost from SRP.

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

Yes. SRP already has programs that offer rebates for energy saving devices such as programmable thermostats. These types of rebates, as well as educational programs that SRP already offers to educate households about energy saving practices, should be expanded and diversified.

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

Yes. SRP, to its credit, already offers worthwhile rebate programs to homeowners, businesses and governmental entities for transportation electrification. Rebates for EV charging options is one of the ways that SRP can help to facilitate the transition to electric vehicles. SRP offers such rebate programs now, and they should be expanded as electric vehicles become increasingly more common going forward. EV charging for apartments, condominiums and multifamily housing offers a different challenge, as EV charging options for high density housing is much more limited than those for single family homes. SRP should work with apartment complexes and condominium HOAs to provide technical help, guidance and rebate options in order to facilitate the installation of EV charging stations in these venues.

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

Yes. SRP elections are a closely held secret. Few people realize that SRP elections are even held, much less that they can vote in them. This is because SRP doesn't inform its rate payers about the elections, nor does it send every qualified voter a ballot. This needs to change. SRP needs to inform each qualified voter of the SRP elections and their eligibility to vote. Then, SRP should send each qualified voter a ballot, rather than requiring them to specifically request a ballot, as it does now. Over 50% of SRP customers cannot vote, because renters are excluded from voting, as well as anyone who lives outside the SRP boundaries that were established in 1937. The changes in population that have occurred as a result of the explosive growth in Arizona since 1937 means that whole cities are excluded from voting because those potential voters live outside the 1937 SRP boundaries. This needs to change too. Redistricting will be difficult and tedious, but it must be done, as the present voting arrangement is undemocratic and must be updated.

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

Current SRP customers have little input in SRP's planning process and stakeholder meetings. Part of this stems from the fact that the SRP voting process is opaque and not well understood or even well recognized. This could change if the voting process was democratized as I described above.

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

Yes. I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona and obtained my professional education from Arizona State University where I earned an undergraduate degree, a graduate degree in archaeology and a law degree from ASU's College of Law. I spent my entire career in public service, representing the government. What I love most about Arizona are the magnificent outdoor spaces and diversity of our beautiful deserts, mountains and forests. Arizona is on the forefront of the global climate change crisis, and the impact on our beautiful state has become increasingly apparent. It is clear that we must do everything in our power to transition to carbon-free, sustainable sources of energy as soon as possible. I am dedicated to using my legal expertise and life experience to help effect this transition, for Arizona and for present and future generations.

To learn more about me, go to:

<https://srpcleanenergy.org/candidates/roberta-neil-miller/>

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.