



## 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?

Shelly Gordon

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

I am running for the SRP Council. Although not directly related to energy and water policy this body does approve bylaws and salaries. The Council position is a stepping stone to a Board position which I might be interested in once my term as council member is completed, if I get elected.

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

Of course I would like to see SRP invest in solar generation and storage. Because SRP is not beholden to shareholders and isn't relying on them for investment and then guaranteeing a rate of return, as is the financial structure of an investor owned utility, this public power with an elected board should have more autonomy over its energy mix and generate more utility scale solar or least enable community solar which would allow LMI customers to benefit from solar and lower their monthly bills.

3. 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?

As an SRP customer with rooftop solar and storage (we were one of the early SUN members who took advantage of the group discount) we resent paying the peak demand fee, in addition to the additional monthly fee. We are automatically charged during the long peak demand periods even if our battery automatically

kicks in once our solar panels stop producing energy and we aren't pulling any power from the grid. We also are paid a very small amount for excess solar energy (2 cents/kwh?). Utilities will claim cross-subsidization with non rooftop solar customers paying the difference to make up the shortfall in revenues. But again, SRP is supposed to be a nonprofit public power so they shouldn't be seeking to make up the difference but instead incentivizing customers to use less grid power.

4. 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?

Whatever SRP is paying for solar power, be it generated power or market power, it should similarly compensate rooftop solar customers for their exported solar power.

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

See my answer to question 3.

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

Of course I think SRP should incentivize customers to reduce their use of fossil fuels. But without understanding SRP's financial motives, as a public power nonprofit and not an IOU, it is hard to understand its motives for discouraging customers from investing in residential solar/storage. In 2023 SRP gained \$362M in profits with over \$4 billion in gross revenues. I would be interested in an audit to understand, as a public power, with huge profits, SRP has punishing rate plans for solar/storage customers, fought vigorously to get HB2101 passed in 2022 which effectively killed energy competition in Arizona.

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

My husband and I are very conservative when it comes to using electricity in the winter and summer. In the summer I will use a room fan and turn off our air conditioner during peak demand periods. We also leave the thermostats on 77 and still experience a cool house. Yet we are not rewarded for our energy efficiency practices. In fact we are charged when we pull power from our battery, when the solar panels stop producing even though we're not pulling power from the grid, as stated in question 3. SRP does offer free smart thermostats for solar owners. Not sure about non rooftop solar customers but they are very effective for controlling energy consumption. We keep our bills low (we only have 12 panels on a 3000 sf house) through the thermostats and our own energy management but I think we're unique. I do think that commercial HVACs are inefficient and set too high especially during summer months. SRP could incentivize commercial customers to keep indoor temperatures more moderate during summer months.

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

Same as above

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

Yes! SRP could remove certain steps. For example, most people who get on the permanent early voting list are unlikely to change their voting status due to the convenience of receiving a mail-in ballot. Yet we receive a post card for every election asking us if we'd like to come off the PEVL. We find that confusing. Of course the election terms: 1 acre 1 vote for homeowners only and all SRP ratepayers not being allowed to vote is highly unfair to renters and condo dwellers. As such we have a non diverse board dominated but large landowners and farmers. The election should be based on 1 SRP customer, 1 vote and not rely on SRP's history as a reason to leave out so many ratepayers.

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

I have not attended SRP board meetings but my understanding that few SRP voters do attend and ad hoc executive committee meetings occur frequently which excludes the voting public. As an SRP voter it would be helpful to receive agenda notices, similar to ACC notifications, so that I can attend if there are topics of relevance for my concerns.

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

Mainly that I am the state director of Arizonans for Community Choice (AZ4CC) and we are building a coalition of energy stakeholders, including cities, counties, energy suppliers, grassroots organizations and individuals, and businesses to advocate for a renewable energy model called community choice aggregation (aka community choice energy). CCAs which are authorized in 10 states, would allow cities, groups of cities, and counties to take over energy generation while the local utilities would continue to own the poles and wires, deliver the power and manage the grid, bill customers – everything else that a utility does. I am also getting guidance from the National Community Solar Partnership, a program of the DOE to learn how to overcome hurdles to facilitating community solar projects in Arizona. Community solar would be a foray into cities owning energy assets which would be a first step toward local energy independence. Because SRP isn't regulated by the ACC which has essentially blocked community solar, the utility has the autonomy to work with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to enable community solar projects, and give LMI communities access to solar and lower their monthly bills. So CCA and community solar are my primary interests.

**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.