

# McClellan: Gilbert has a choice in August primary election

Mike McClellan, AZ I See It 12:31 p.m. MST July 11, 2016



(Photo: David Kadlubowski/The Republic.)

If you live in Gilbert, you rarely have a choice when it comes to who represents you in the Arizona Legislature.

The town is so red it's crimson.

And for the last several years, we've had the pleasure of Andy Biggs and Eddie Farnsworth serving us at the state Capitol.

In the last couple of years, Warren Petersen's (<http://www.votewarrenpetersen.com/home.aspx>) been added to the mix.

This year, though, Biggs (<http://biggsforcongress.com/>) has decided to run for Congress (</story/news/politics/elections/2016/06/10/biggs-leads-east-valley-congress-race-polls-say/85623038/>), replacing the retiring Matt Salmon. It's a win for us: Getting Biggs out of the Legislature, where he had real power, and sending him to D.C., where he'll just be another anonymous radical reactionary holding up progress in the House.

**ROBERTS:** Tea Party Leader calls Andy Biggs a "jerk" (</story/opinion/op-ed/laurieroberts/2016/07/11/roberts-tea-party-leader-calls-andy-biggs-jerk/86952150/>)

So a replacement has been picked for Biggs: Travis Grantham (<http://granthamforaz.com/>). Another reliable radical reactionary. And an unsuccessful candidate for Congress.

They call themselves "The East Valley Republican Dream Team" on Facebook.



Andy Biggs run for Congress has opened up the Arizona legislative race in District 12. (Photo: David Wallace, David Wallace, David Wallace/The)

## Closer to nightmare

Farnsworth and Petersen — and presumably Grantham — have consistently voted for corporate tax cuts even as they voted for budgets that harmed education.

They claim to be for local control and small government, but in this last session, they voted to expand government by [adding two more justices to the State Supreme Court \(/story/news/politics/arizona/2016/05/18/gov-doug-ducey-signs-legislation-expand-arizona-supreme-court/84544008/\)](#), additions the Court itself argued were unnecessary.

Of course, they grew government for only political reasons, giving Gov. Ducey two more appointments to the Court, swinging it further to the right.

And for local control? Well, they voted to tell cities that they [couldn't ban plastic bags \(/story/news/politics/legislature/2016/05/09/legislature-keeps-its-thumb-arizona-cities/83842924/\)](#) (!). And they also voted to tell cities that they couldn't raise their minimum wage above the state's.

Oh, and apparently Farnsworth and Petersen don't understand that Arizona's been in a prolonged drought. Because they voted for a bill that, [according to the \(/story/news/local/arizona-water/2016/04/01/water-advocates-bill-passed-arizona-senate-house-threatens-san-pedro-river/82485428/\)Republic \(/story/news/local/arizona-water/2016/04/01/water-advocates-bill-passed-arizona-senate-house-threatens-san-pedro-river/82485428/\)](#), "would sidestep groundwater management rules and green-light big residential developments in southern Arizona." It would've endangered the flow of the San Pedro River and even could've threatened the existence of Fort Huachuca. All to give an out-of-state developer the chance to build 7,000 homes in southern Arizona, despite not having the water to sustain that.

Now, normally we who live in Gilbert would be stuck with these three, since rarely are the incumbents challenged.

This year is different.

Two people, both conservative, are challenging for spots in the House and Senate.

## We actually have a choice

The House challenger, [Jimmy Lindblom \(http://jimmyforaz.com/\)](#), is a newcomer. He will run against Farnsworth, who regularly rails against government but has been in the Legislature since 2001. A career politician, in other words. Lindblom, on the other hand, has run a construction company. Like Farnsworth, Lindblom is for low taxes and smaller government. Unlike Farnsworth, though, Lindblom believes the Legislature has to "prioritize education funding."

Challenging Petersen and Grantham in the House race is another rookie, [LaCinda Lewis \(http://lewisforazhouse.com/\)](#). The last name might be familiar to voters since her husband is Gilbert Mayor John Lewis. An instructor at Mesa Community College, Lewis shares the same values as her running mate Lindblom. Mrs. Lewis has been involved in our community for decades, mostly behind the scenes. The shocking state of foster care in Arizona has spurred her to run for office.

**MORE:** [District 12 candidate responses to Gilbert Chamber of Commerce \(http://www.gilbertaz.com/2016District12Responses\)](#)



**Mike McClellan.** (Photo: Mike McClellan)

Look, both Mrs. Lewis and Lindblom are reliable conservatives. In fact, if you look at who is endorsing them, it's a Who's Who of East Valley conservatives. And they're clearly more conservative than a liberal like me would prefer.

But they appear thoughtful and not knee-jerk in their positions.

So we who live in Gilbert — and parts of Queen Creek — have a choice in the August primary this year.

And if we are indeed fed up with the status quo, LaCinda Lewis and Jimmy Lindblom are clearly a change.

And one for the better.

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