

Candidate Statement

MIKE ZINKIN DISCUSSES WHY HE IS A CANDIDATE FOR ORO VALLEY MAYOR

“It is time for a new face, with new ideas, and a different leadership style.”

I originally had taken out papers to run for the Town Council of Oro Valley. Many friends and associates had requested that I choose to instead run for Mayor. I had thought that, since Mayor Loomis had been in the office for 10 years, he was unbeatable. The Mayor could go around Town and claim responsibility for traffic signals, road improvements, new developments, and the Town's record for safety. In reality, this all happened while on the Mayor's watch, but as an individual, the Mayor was no more responsible than any other Town employee.

As of September 23, 2009 the Mayor can also take responsibility for the dismissal of the Town Manager, David Andrews. It was after this action that I changed my mind and decided to oppose Paul Loomis in his quest for yet another term as Mayor. Mr. Andrews had been a valuable employee of Oro Valley for over 18 years. He had been the Town's Financial Director, Assistant Town Manager, and Town Manager. He had the respect of all the Town's Directors and, more important, the Town's rank and file. Mr. Andrews' contract had just been renewed for an addition year on September 16, 2009. However; between Sept 16 and Sept 23 “issues” and “things” had arisen that culminated in Mayor Loomis requesting David's resignation. What these “issues” and “things” are continue to be a mystery, but the actions of the Mayor have motivated me to oppose him in the upcoming election.

This is not the only recent issue that has divided the Town with the Mayor. In the very recent past, the Town Manager presented a balanced budget to the Council. Preparation of this budget was painful because it entailed the layoff of 33 employees. In a surprise move, the Mayor moved to utilize the Town's contingency funds to balance the budget. This move was contrary to Town policy as contingency (raining day funds) are not to be used to pay for recurring expenses. This move was a complete surprise to the Town Manger and it negated all the work he had done to meet the State mandate to have a balanced budget.

I feel I have the experience to be Mayor. Since moving to Oro Valley I have been involved in my neighborhood HOA, serving 3 years as the Vice-President. I have also served 3 years as the Vice-President of the Canada Hills Community Association. With the neighborhood HOA, I worked with the Town Attorney to litigate against a developer that had violated a Town Code when establishing my neighborhood. While with the Community Association, I worked with the Chief of Police and Town Engineer to write a Development Agreement that allowed the Police to patrol private streets.

I just recently completed a four year term on the Town's Development Review Board, two years of which I was Chairman. I have become very familiar with the Town's General Plan and Zoning Codes. I have chaired contentious open meetings involving a mortuary and the design of the Oro Valley Marketplace. I am very familiar with the Arizona's Open Meeting Laws.

My wife, Ramona, and I have been citizens of Oro Valley since January 1998 when I retired from a 30 career with the Federal Aviation Administration. During my career as an Air Traffic Controller, I served as a facility Training Officer, an Operations Specialist at FAA Headquarters in Washington DC, and,

finally, as an Area Supervisor at the St. Louis Lambert Airport. We have grown children and love to spend time with our two grandchildren, ages 3 and 6.

I received a BA from the University of Arizona in Secondary Education and a MA from California State University, Northridge. I have twice graduated from the Town's Citizen Planning Institute. I have taught Graduate School at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University extension at McClellan AFB. As a Training Officer, I taught numerous Operation Rainchecks to private pilots. I have officiated High School baseball for over 40 years, and football for over 10 years. For the last 3 basketball seasons, I have run the clock at Ironwood Ridge High School.

I am not seeking the endorsement from any organization, only the citizens of Oro Valley. I believe that it is time for a new face, with new ideas, and a different leadership style. I have the knowledge and experience to lead. The citizens of Oro Valley are now very divided as a result of the Mayor's actions and it is time to unite the Town and go forward into uncharted waters. Nobody knows what the future holds for the Town, but only through a united effort, with a Mayor that will work with the complete Council and Town Staff, can we navigate successfully. I intend to provide that leadership.