

Shirley Dye, Candidate for Payson Unified School District Governing Board

It is true, I have not been involved with Payson Schools since I moved here in 2007. I have however followed with interest the Roundup Newspaper articles on School District issues. I have also worked with approximately fifty K-fifth grade students as Commander of the Awana Program at Ponderosa Bible Church from September 2009 to May of 2012. Awana is a program where children earn awards for memorizing scripture verses out of their handbook. I was amazed at how many third through fifth graders could hardly read, and did not know how to memorize. In contrast, there were home schooled children that did a fantastic job, even the K-second graders.

So why do I think I am qualified to be a school board member?

In the 1970s I served at my four children's Elementary School on the School Site Council and in the PTA. I was a Brownie/Girl Scout Leader for 9 years. I was a Cub Scout leader and was involved in the Boy Scout Parents Council for 10 years.

I worked for Glendale College Bookstore for 9 years in the 1980s, selling books and supplies to the students. During that time I earned a Certificate in Drug and Alcohol Counseling. From 1990 to 2005 I worked for a General Engineering Contractor pulling permits and educating our clients on the rules for installing a Sewer Connection or a Private Sewage Disposal System.

After moving to Payson in 2005, I graduated from the Payson Leadership Academy in 2008. I have served on the Payson Transportation Advisory Board since March 2009. I have been active in the Payson Tea Party serving as secretary and Vice President since June of 2008. I have served as Secretary of the Gila County Republican Party since November 2010, been a Delegate to the Arizona State Republican Party and am honored to be a Delegate to the Republican National Convention in August 2012.

I have learned a lot about State, County, and Local Budgets; Education and many other topics. Are you aware that Gila County has only 3.7% private land as a tax base? Arizona used to have plenty of money for the schools, but the Forest Service, BLM and their Environmental over the top friends, have forced timber, cattle and mining industries out of our forests, and lessened the tax base that used to go for education. There is a growing movement to return management of the forests to the State where we can reinstitute that economic tax base for education.

I am a detail person and like to brain storm ideas to find solutions outside the box. I believe students need structure, discipline, guidance and confidence through successful mastery of basic skills. I intend to support the children, staff, parents and administration of the PUSD, and hope you will find me worthy of election to the Payson Unified School District Governing Board.

Please vote for me, Shirley Dye