

**Who to Vote for in the Race for Arizona Corporation Commission
Information & Perspective by Warren Woodward
Sedona, Arizona ~ August 5, 2016**

Numerous people have asked me recently who to vote for in the race for the three vacant seats at the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC).

People have also sent me articles about incumbent ACC candidate Bob Burns, and also referenced his campaign claims about standing up to APS influence. In brief, don't fall for Burns' re-election ploy.

But first of all, understand that I am a registered Republican. I am not a doctrinaire Democrat out to bash Republicans.

That said, there is not a Republican ACC candidate worth voting for in either the primary or the general election. You of course are free to vote for whomever you want, but in the primary election I will *not* be voting for *any* of the Republicans. I will leave that portion of the primary ballot blank.

In the general election in November, I will not be voting for any ACC Republican candidates either. I will vote for the two Democrats, [Tom Chabin](#) and [Bill Mundell](#). There are three seats open at the ACC this time, but I will be voting for only those two candidates (no one has to vote for three candidates just because there are three seats open).

What about Bob?

Incumbent ACC candidate Bob Burns has attempted to present himself as a reformer, as someone who will stand up to APS. Coincident with the upcoming election and early primary ballots going out in the mail, Burns has just announced that he (with ACC/taxpayer funds, not his own) has hired an outside, independent lawyer (at \$315/hr.) to investigate whether APS has undue influence at the ACC.

1) Anyone with half a brain knows the answer to that already and doesn't need a \$315 per hour "investigation" to figure it out.

2) Burns has been at the ACC since 2012 and he's just getting around to this now?

3) Basically Burns, a career politician since 1989, is using taxpayer money to fund a re-election publicity stunt.

4) In violation of conflict of interest law, Burns was a lobbyist for companies he regulates at the ACC. I totally nailed him on it but the corrupt AZ Supreme Court declined to act on [my filing](#). For that conflict of interest issue alone Burns does not deserve to be returned to office.

5) In two ACC issues I have followed closely and actively participated in, "smart" meters and the CenturyLink "facility relocation" add-on fee, Burns sided with corporate, not ratepayers, despite huge public outcries on both issues. He voted in favor of the undeserved CenturyLink fee, and he voted to extort a fee from ratepayers not wanting a "smart" meter.

Indeed, on May 1st, 2013 Burns wrote an opinion piece in the *Sedona Red Rock News* parroting

the APS "smart" meter line and valuing money over health and privacy. Here's an excerpt of [what I wrote him in reply](#) back then:

Amazingly, you reveal yourself to be more concerned about APS's bottom line than with people's health and privacy. In your article you mention a meeting you attended in Sedona in which people expressed health and privacy concerns regarding "smart" meters. Yet your response is that "... perhaps an important fact is getting lost in the discussion – namely, that the digital meters represent a significant cost savings to the utility, a savings, that, in turn, gets passed on to its customers."

"Significant cost savings"? Do tell us exactly how much ratepayers will save per month? Substantiate your claim. Show us some numbers based on real life, not APS propaganda. If the cost savings are "significant" as you claim, then it should be easy for you to tell us specifically.

Several times since I wrote that in 2013 I challenged Burns to show everyone the savings he said would be "passed on" to customers. Of course I never heard from him because there are no savings and never will be. The entire "smart" grid is huge boondoggle. Higher rates are what gets "passed on" wherever it's installed, and Arizona is no exception now that APS is asking for an 8% rate hike in their pending rate case.

Turn Burns out. He's burned ratepayers enough already.