

Mike Norman

Continental Elementary School District No. 39



Why

I grew up in poverty where there seemed to be few opportunities or dreams. Public education changed my life in many ways; with great teachers helping me to reach my potential. I have also worked as an educator, as a teacher and professor, and I love learning. I want to support our public schools, to support teachers, and to help each student reach their potential.

Goals

I have three general goals: 1. Protect this school from political radicalism, divisive “cultural wars” and mis-information; 2. Improve this school’s State annual / comparative assessments / results to be more than 10% above average (rather than a below average assessment); 3. Continuous improvement in business operations, management practices and parent / teacher collaboration.

Background

I was born in Des Moines, IA. I am married to Lois, and have one son and three grandchildren. I have lived in Arizona for the last 20 years, moving from Sedona to Green Valley about three years ago. I retired about six years ago. I was employed as a computer scientist, project manager and a senior manager at IBM, the State of Arizona, American Express, etc. I also served as an Adjunct Professor for many years (part time) at the Arizona State University, teaching graduate seminars in the MBA and MPA programs.

I earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin (pre-law / political science, 1970) and a master’s degree from Harvard University Kennedy school of Government (MPA, mid-career, 1986) with co-studies at MIT Sloan school of Business.

I served in the Wisconsin Army National Guard during the Viet Nam Era (1968 – 1974), and was activated several times. I was trained / deployed as a combat medic and hospital nurse, and served as a platoon sergeant supervising forty soldiers.