

## Susan Zibrat

### Amphitheater Unified School District No. 10



I have been an advocate for the Amphitheater School District (ASD) community since my children first attended ASD schools (1997). As a parent classroom volunteer, fundraiser, and PTO leader, I became frustrated by Arizona's consistently low school funding compared to the rest of the nation, as well as the competitive edge which other neighboring school districts enjoyed through local budget overrides. I believed our students, employees and community deserved better, and that is where my real education about lack of public-school funding began.

I volunteered to co-chair a community-wide citizens panel that examined the ASD budget to create a specific proposal for increased programs and services for students and greater support of the teachers and all the employees who support them. I then became part of the leadership team that raised funds for and led the campaign for passage of a budget override for ASD – the first such increase in funding in more than two decades. That success led to further efforts to obtain bonds to dramatically improve our school buildings and facilities. All told, this work has since generated hundreds of millions of dollars for the ASD community's schools. All these successes demonstrate how our local ASD community values public education.

After my work to support our schools financially, I believed I could do more. So, I ran for and was elected to the ASD Governing Board and served on the Board from 2011 to 2014. During that term, I oversaw substantial improvements in our schools by continuing to be a voice for our entire community. Upon completion of my first term as a Board member, I took a break from my public service to attend to personal matters. In 2017, I was appointed to finish out the term of a Board member who moved out of the ASD and I have been serving on the Board since then. Among the improvements made in ASD during my current term was tripling the number of "A rated" schools, increasing state funding for our school buildings, implementing All-Day Kindergarten in every district elementary school, and creating new preschool programs throughout ASD.

Truly, the COVID pandemic has had a dramatic and negative impact on the education of children all over our country, just as it negatively impacted virtually every aspect of our society. National and state data confirms losses in student learning, declines in student attendance, and substantial classroom vacancies that remain unfilled by qualified teachers. These challenges within our schools have never been seen before, and they demand swift and urgent responses to restore the promise which education is intended to offer to every child. These challenges also demand people with true commitment to our students, schools, parents and community and I believe my history of advocacy within the ASD demonstrates I am such a person.

Please vote for me to continue my service to the ASD community. Thank you.