

Harmen Tjaarda Jr.

Council Seat

Voting Area 7



Candidate Information

My name is Harmen Tjaarda, and I am asking for your support in my re-election to the SRP Council.

I have called Scottsdale my home for 30 years. During that time, my wife Sheri and I have raised three children. I have coached youth baseball, softball, football, and rugby. I was a Boy Scout leader while my two sons were in Scouts. I have been a member of the Scottsdale Rugby Club as a player and now as a youth coach and administrator. I have also served as a council member for SRP for 23 years.

Before being elected, I, like many of my neighbors, thought of SRP as just another bill. When I turned on the water, I didn't think about where it came from. Water and electricity were just a twist of the wrist or a flick of a switch away. Since I became a council member at SRP, I have learned that SRP is far more than a monthly bill.

SRP is a public power company. This means that SRP is run by the shareholders, who happen to be the electric and water users - you and me. As your representative, my goal has been to consider SRP's policies and decisions from a shareholder's perspective. I constantly ask myself, "Will this be good for the shareholder?"

As a member of the council, I have been part of SRP's transition from predominantly coal-powered generation to a more sustainable, carbon-neutral generation portfolio. The goal is to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable power. SRP has been a leader in solar and battery storage research, funding research with the state's universities. While we in Arizona have, on average, 300 days of sunshine to generate energy from the sun, we also have 365 nights. This is why the key to solar energy is how to store it affordably when you need it. Small natural gas turbines are being added throughout the power system to supply backup power when wind and solar are unavailable during peak hours of the day. This adds reliability to the power system, which is good for the shareholder.

On the water side, SRP has managed a 20-plus-year drought by storing water in the lakes of the Salt and Verde rivers. The watershed that supplies these two rivers has been the lifeblood of our valley since the first people settled here. The canals they dug by hand led to the formation of SRP. The Roosevelt Dam, the oldest dam, was given a 100-year makeover, and its height was raised. This has added to the life and safety of the dam, the largest lake of both rivers. The canals that supply water to the valley have also been renovated. SRP has partnered with cities to add biking and walking paths to the canal banks. SRP has championed the Clean Forest initiative to help protect the watershed from devastating wildfires. The same watershed provides water to our homes in the form of flood irrigation, as well as supplying water to the cities to treat and provide clean drinking water. The irrigation water was mostly used for farming. However, as the valley has urbanized, that water has created many neighborhood oases in the desert, which help reduce the heat island effect. This is good for the shareholder.

With the tremendous growth in the valley, the need for electricity is estimated to double in the next ten years. Water will become a more precious resource. I would like to continue working for reliable, sustainable, and affordable power and water for the shareholders. With the challenges ahead, I ask for your support in re-electing me to the SRP Council.

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