



ADAM SHIMONI

Vice Mayor, Flagstaff, Arizona
Elected 2018



WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH AS AN ELECTED LEADER?

There is a ton I am hoping to accomplish in my first four years of office. Supporting our most vulnerable populations is at the top of my list. When you raise a community up by those most needing help, the whole town benefits! Workforce housing solutions along with economic development is also a top priority. Flagstaff has a beautiful diversity of people and as a growing land-locked town, the cost of housing is increasing, forcing locals to leave. I am committed to finding housing solutions for our workforce while maintaining our values of open space and all the wonderful viewsheds.

Empowering Flagstaff Youth through my role excites me. I have a background in education and look forward to integrating many interns/apprenticeships into our work along with giving tours of our chambers to students of all ages. The work we do is for these young adults, and I want them to know how to make changes, feel welcome and able to speak up locally! City Hall is like a school building, and youth of all ages should know the ins and outs of how decisions are made. I plan to work closely with our community and the Sustainability Department to implement the unanimously and recently passed Climate Action, Adaptation and Mitigation Plan. We need to lead by example, and I look forward to the challenges and successes ahead.

With all this being said, my very top goal is to help create a culture of engagement where all members of our community know how to be heard and the value of their voice and vote. We have some 20,000 people in Flagstaff who are eligible to vote, but don't see the value in doing so. It is my belief that if government were to take the time to communicate, listen, empower and engage its citizens, we would have a much higher voter turnout, and our leaders would best represent the people.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES AHEAD OF YOU AND FOR YOUR COMMUNITY DURING YOUR TERM?

Like I mentioned above, we are experiencing a lot of growth in our town, and finding solutions to relieve the growing pains isn't easy or simple. It is my understanding that much of the nation is struggling with attainable workforce housing, and Flagstaff is not an exception. With growth also comes more vehicles, resulting in traffic. I am an avid cyclist and hope to see our pedways improved and connected along with a more enhanced, frequent bus service to relieve the roads.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME?

Believe in yourself, and believe in your message and your purpose. People will always find ways to knock you down and pick you apart, but only you can rise above the noise and be the leader you want to be. Trust your gut, and never cave in to outside pressures. Identify your truths and communicate them to your constituents. Stay positive and don't judge others. Always listen with an open mind and open heart, and be grateful for the things that frustrate you. Stay strong and give all of yourself. I lost my first campaign by 59 votes after two weeks of ballots being counted after the election had ended. Remember this journey is both a sprint and a marathon, and one needs to maintain their balance throughout the process. Don't be afraid of losing. Losing makes us stronger and teaches us our best lessons. I learned from my mistakes and ran again two years later and was the top elected council person, making me the vice mayor. Don't give up, and most importantly, be you!

IS THERE A CONSERVATION-RELATED RULE, POLICY OR IDEA YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LEVEL?

I am a firm believer in conservation and would like to see all towns, states and our nation learn to be more efficient and frugal with our precious planet. It's time we wake up to the reality of the state of our world and start taking care of her.

IS THERE A CONSERVATION-RELATED POLICY, RULE OR IDEA YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL, STATE OR NATIONAL LEVEL?

I would love to see the expansion of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, the plan created by Pima County focusing on the protection and enhancement of our unique desert landscape in concert with the realities of the growth of our community. The SCDP focuses on five different elements, chosen to enhance the desert ecosystem: the protection of critical habitats and biological corridors for endangered species, riparian areas, natural landscapes like mountain parks, the preservation of historical and cultural sites, and ranch conservation. With these priorities in mind, the SCDP seeks to balance the conservation and protection of our incredible cultural and natural resource heritage with the county's ongoing efforts to maintain an economically vigorous and fiscally responsible community.

