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Braswell able to see issues in shades of gray

The challenger in the 6th District state Senate GOP primary is trying to frame the election as a

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race between a true conservative and a liberal.

But the record and their campaign statements reveal two candidates who agree on most issues. The differences lie in demeanor and how they approach issues.

On that count, Sen. David Braswell holds the advantage over Lori Klein. We recommend his nomination.

Braswell and Klein have solid conservative credentials in a Republican district that stretches from north Phoenix to Anthem and New River.

Klein managed the campaigns for the property-rights Proposition 207 and a health-care choice proposition in 2008. Braswell has been the party's district committee chair for three years, increasing its membership.

But there are differences. Klein recites the easy mantras: slash the budget; push back against federal mandates; oppose Prop. 100, the temporary sales-tax increase. Such a black-and-white approach may win elections, but it leads to bad governance.

Braswell is comfortable in the grays, where considering nuances leads to better decisions.

For instance, the Legislature sent Prop. 100 to the ballot before he was



David Braswell

appointed to the Senate. He would have preferred a different approach, but he accepted that the sales tax was needed for the state to stay afloat.

That puts him in line with district voters, who approved Prop. 100 by an overwhelming margin.

Braswell advocates a conservative approach to budgeting, seeking cuts in social programs, closing parks that aren't self-sustaining and promoting a plan to keep the state from overspending in good times.

But he also understands the need to be smart about cuts, particularly when eliminating one dollar of state funding cuts off three or four dollars of federal money.

Braswell, whose career has revolved around education, promotes a vision of schooling that doesn't center on buildings. High-school students should be able to take lessons in ways that make sense to them, such as online or at community colleges if they're ready. Teachers should be certified on their ability to facilitate learning.

These ideas may or may not be practical, but it's the kind of creativity that's possible when you move beyond reciting a party script.

Reeve and Kowalski stand out

Seven candidates are seeking the Republican nomination for the two District 6 House seats. We recommend incumbent Amanda Reeve and challenger John Adam Kowalski.

Reeve was appointed to replace Sam Crump, who resigned to run for Congress. In her brief time in the Legislature, she has established herself as a solid advocate for small businesses. She wants to simplify the tax code, reduce business taxes, promote job-training programs, streamline permit processes and reduce red tape for schools, thus reducing administrative expenses.

Kowalski, a business consultant who hosts a national business radio show, may seem an odd choice. He changed his registration from independent to Republican only on entering this race.

But he's the type of person whom voters say they want in the Legislature — someone more interested in solving the state's problems than scoring partisan points.

He's also one of the few candidates who offer specific, practical ways to run government like a business. That includes consolidating agencies to re-



Amanda Reeve



John Adam Kowalski

duce overhead and investing a small portion of state pension funds in Arizona businesses — not banks, but businesses. Much of that money now goes out of state. Kowalski's proposal would keep it here, growing the local economy.

The other candidates are essentially clones of Rep. Carl Seel. If voters want accountability from government, it should mean removing ineffective elected officials. Seel introduces lots of bills, but they're so far out of the mainstream that only two on which he was the lead sponsor made it out of committee. Neither passed the House.

District 6 would be better served by Reeve and Kowalski. We recommend them.

Voters are turned off by robo calls from politicians

My husband and I have come to a firm decision: every politician who has called our home number, which is unlisted, unpublished (we pay extra for both of those) and on the Do Not Call List, will not be receiving a vote or even consideration of a vote from us.

We are tired of the overwhelming number of calls we are receiving when politicians should not have access to any of our phone numbers. It's hard for me to imagine that any of them still feel that a recorded message in my ear, invading my

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private life, in my home, is a viable way to encourage a vote from me.

It is unfortunate that the few who have walked the neighborhoods and made an impression decided to call as well. They lost the support they had gained.

— Janice Hill, Phoenix

Outsourcing city jobs is ludicrous

Outsourcing city jobs is synonymous to

renting a wife.

What's wrong with our city leaders who think that outsourcing city jobs to private companies will save our city money? It will cost the city more money and will lead to higher taxes.

Do they not know that these private companies are in the business to make money?

Not long ago, these same city, county and state leaders were proposing selling our buildings and offices to private companies and renting them back. This is

crazy, as outsourcing and privatizing these public services will cost taxpayers more money and raise our taxes.

Privatizing services will also lead to more unemployment of our city employees.

Outsourcing will make the rich businesses richer and the poor people poorer.

I have a better idea. Remove all the city, county and state leaders from office and fire them. Then we can outsource their jobs to private companies.

— A.J. Horacek, Phoenix