

# Jim Lane, Big Spender

In addition to fighting to protect Scottsdale's special character and high quality of life, the other hallmark of my tenure on the City Council was fighting against wasteful spending and special-interest handouts.

Unfortunately, my opponent is doing just the opposite. While he claims to run an efficient and austere city government, the facts prove otherwise:

- Before he retired as city treasurer, now Councilman David Smith publicly stated the City Council was balancing the operating budget not by cutting expenses, but by cutting contributions to the capital budget. Unsurprisingly that cupboard is now bare, which is why, ***under Lane's "leadership" City Hall has had to ask Scottsdale voters twice in the last three years to increase property taxes*** to fund infrastructure maintenance. These items should and can be funded from general fund revenues.
- ***Scottsdale residents pay the second highest general fund cost per resident of any city in the Valley*** – only Tempe residents pay more.
- ***Scottsdale has more employees per resident than ANY OTHER CITY IN THE VALLEY.*** Interestingly, staffing for public safety (which should be the number one priority of municipal government) isn't the issue; those numbers are right in the middle of the pack. However, Scottsdale ***is*** overstaffed with executives, 155 of whom make six-figure salaries.
- The mayor and his allies often tout the bar district as an "economic driver." Actually, ***the bar district costs Scottsdale residents money.*** According to a study done by then-City Treasurer Smith, the bar district contributes less than \$400,000 in annual revenues to the city but costs \$1.2 million annually just to police the streets. And that doesn't even count the costs for maintenance (street cleaning, etc.) or code enforcement.
- Scottsdale pays about \$4.5M every year to the Cultural Council to run a theater (the Center for the Arts) with declining attendance, a "Museum of Contemporary Art" that almost no one visits, and a public art program which most residents do not like. For 25 years they have

had a sole-source, no-bid contract, with no meaningful performance metrics. ***We should put the contract to operate the Center for the Arts out to competitive bid to see who would pay the city for the privilege of operating it!*** The \$4.5 million we would save every year is enough to buy the land for and build a fire station, without any additional bonds or debt!

- In 2014, the mayor and his allies on the City Council voted (over my objections) to give golf pro Phil Mickelson about \$2 million dollars in taxpayer gifts in the form of a new clubhouse and other improvements to the city-owned McDowell Mountain Golf Course – ***improvements his lease required him to fund!***
- For 10 years, the city has been sitting on 80 acres of prime land at 94th and Bell. ***Every year Scottsdale taxpayers shell out roughly \$3 million in debt service to hold on to that raw piece of dirt.*** It's time to sell it and use the savings to fund some of our truly worthy and needed capital projects. If we had sold this land just three years ago, the \$9 million in savings would have been more than enough to upgrade the outdated and overburdened citywide IT network -- without asking Scottsdale citizens to increase their property taxes.

The bottom line is clear: ***Scottsdale desperately needs new leadership!*** That is why I am asking for your vote in this year's election for Mayor.

*Bob Littlefield is a former three-term Scottsdale City Councilman and is running for Mayor. He can be reached by email at [bob@boblittlefield.com](mailto:bob@boblittlefield.com), and his web site is [www.boblittlefield.com](http://www.boblittlefield.com).*