ASBA
ARIZONA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. ELEVATE.

ARIZONA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

VOTER GUIDE

of Officer Candidates for the ASBA Board of Directors



ASBA Candidates for 2027 Executive Committee

The ASBA Officer Voting Guide contains comprehensive information provided by each candidate in their application. The following are the candidates in alphabetical order by last name and by officer position for the 2027 ASBA Officers on the Executive Committee of the ASBA Board of Directors as put forward by the ASBA Nominating Committee.

President-Elect

John Sparks, Sahuarita USD

Treasurer

Andy Fraher, Prescott USD

Secretary

Steve Johnson, CAVIT

Kathryn Mikronis, Marana USD

Five officers serve as the executive committee on the ASBA Board of Directors. They are the president, president-elect, treasurer, secretary and immediate past-president. Each position is held for a one-year term. The officers serve on the board alongside 17 county directors and ex officio voting members that include HNAIC Caucus and Black Alliance presidents.

Election of the president-elect, treasurer and secretary are held each year at the ASBA Annual Membership Meeting.

The officer application consists of:

- Basic information about the applicant’s board service
- A snapshot of their recent involvement with ASBA
- Narrative questions designed to demonstrate the assets the individual will bring to the ASBA Board of Directors if elected

Process for Selecting Candidates

Applications were reviewed by the ASBA Nominating Committee, which is comprised of a diverse group of currently serving board members from throughout the state. No interviews were required; the nominating committee made its decisions based on candidate applications only. Per ASBA bylaws, the Nominating Committee is charged with putting forth a slate of one or more candidates for each position: president-elect, treasurer and secretary.

Election of Officers

Election of officers will take place on Thursday, December 17, 2026 at 10:15 a.m. at the ASBA Annual Membership Meeting, which will be held at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale in conjunction with the ASBA-ASA Annual Conference. Every ASBA member district is eligible to send a delegate to cast its vote. Members of ASBA can attend the Annual Membership Meeting at no charge, even if they are not registered to attend the conference.

All eligible candidates put forth by the Nominating Committee must be present at the meeting to be elected and will have the opportunity to give a speech of up to two minutes.

Individuals may also choose to run from the floor for one of the three positions and will be given the opportunity to make a two-minute speech. No information about individuals who choose to run from the floor will be presented to members in this guide.

Candidates for President-Elect

(presented in alpha-order by last name)

Answers to narrative questions have not been edited and appear as submitted by the candidate.





John Sparks

General

Position Running For
President Elect

District Name
Sahuarita Unified School District

Student Enrollment
6300

County
Pima

Years on Your Board
12

Eligibility Criteria

✓ I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years.

✓ I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2027.

✓ I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA.

Candidate Statement

Serving on a school board for more than a decade has reinforced my belief that strong local governance is essential to strong public schools. My work with ASBA has broadened that perspective and shown me the importance of statewide leadership that supports boards across very different communities.

Through service on the ASBA Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Legislative Committee, I have gained experience with governance, fiscal oversight, advocacy and member services. I have also learned the importance of steady leadership, thoughtful decision-making and strong relationships.

I am seeking the position of President-Elect because I am ready to build on that experience and take on a greater leadership role within the association. I understand that Arizona's school districts differ greatly in size, geography, resources and priorities, and I believe ASBA is strongest when it listens carefully to those differences while also identifying common needs.

As President-Elect, I would focus on supporting effective governance, responsible stewardship, meaningful member engagement and strong statewide advocacy. I want ASBA to remain a trusted, credible and responsive organization that helps locally elected boards lead effectively in their own communities

Involvement with ASBA

I have served on the ASBA Board of Directors within the past four years

Please provide position(s) held and years
Pima County Representative Current and Treasurer 2024

Have you been a member of an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past for years?
Yes

Please provide name(s) of alliance and/or caucus
Black Alliance, Rural Aliance, HNAIC

Budget & Financial Oversight Committee and Governance

Please provide year(s)
2022 and 2025

Question 1: What motivated you to seek an ASBA elected officer position, and how does this align with your vision for serving Arizona's school boards?

I am seeking the position of President-Elect because I believe ASBA plays an important role in helping local boards succeed. Over time, I have seen how much board members rely on strong training, policy guidance, advocacy and opportunities to learn from one another.

My vision is for ASBA to remain a practical, trusted resource that helps boards govern well and respond to the challenges facing their communities. That means listening closely to members, communicating clearly and making sure statewide priorities remain connected to local needs.

I am also motivated by the opportunity to help provide continuity in leadership. The President-Elect role offers time to work closely with the President, Executive Officer Team, Board of Directors and Executive Director while preparing for the responsibilities of the presidency. I would approach the role with a focus on listening, collaboration and consistency, while helping ASBA remain responsive to members and focused on the work that matters most to Arizona school boards

Question 2: What unique capabilities and relevant background experience do you bring to the ASBA Executive Officer Team, and how specifically would you use them for the benefit of ASBA and its members?

I bring experience in local governance, statewide leadership, fiscal oversight and advocacy. My background has taught me to look at issues from both the policy level and the practical level, including how decisions affect boards, staff, students and communities.

My service on ASBA's Finance and Legislative Committees has strengthened my ability to evaluate priorities, examine issues carefully and connect organizational decisions to long-term goals. I would use that experience to support careful budgeting, effective use of resources and thoughtful review of programs and initiatives.

I also bring a collaborative leadership style. I am comfortable working with people who have different perspectives and priorities, and I believe that is especially important in a statewide organization. As President-Elect, I would use these skills to help the Executive Officer Team make well-informed decisions, strengthen communication with members and ensure ASBA's work reflects the wide range of districts it represents

Question 3: What do you believe is the most critical advocacy issue facing Arizona public schools today? Describe the strategy you would recommend for ASBA to effectively represent its members' interests on this issue before the legislature and the public.

I believe the most critical advocacy issue facing Arizona public schools is the need for stable, adequate and predictable funding. School boards are expected to make long-term decisions about staffing, compensation, transportation, facilities and student programs, but that becomes difficult when funding is uncertain from year to year.

ASBA should continue using a focused, member-driven approach to advocacy by identifying the funding priorities most widely shared by member boards and presenting them clearly and consistently to lawmakers and the public.

It is also important to show the local impact of state-level decisions. Funding discussions are more meaningful when they are connected to real consequences such as staffing shortages, class sizes, transportation needs, aging facilities and access to programs. ASBA should continue building relationships across the political spectrum and provide board members with reliable data, clear talking points and practical advocacy tools they can use in their own communities

Question 4: Do you believe the current strategic plan reflects ASBA's priorities and direction? Are there any areas you believe should be revisited, clarified, or adjusted, and why? Please be as specific as possible

Yes. I believe the current strategic plan reflects the areas where ASBA can provide the greatest value: strong board leadership, advocacy, policy support, member engagement and organizational effectiveness. I especially support the focus on strengthening the organization itself. ASBA should model the same principles it promotes to local boards, including clear governance, responsible financial oversight, transparency and accountability

One area I would continue to develop is how the plan's measures translate into the member experience. Participation numbers are helpful, but they do not always show whether a service is making a meaningful difference. I would like to see continued attention to measures that reflect board effectiveness, member satisfaction, use of advocacy and policy resources, and the practical value members receive from ASBA programs. I believe the strategic plan should provide clear direction while still allowing room to adjust as member needs and statewide conditions change.

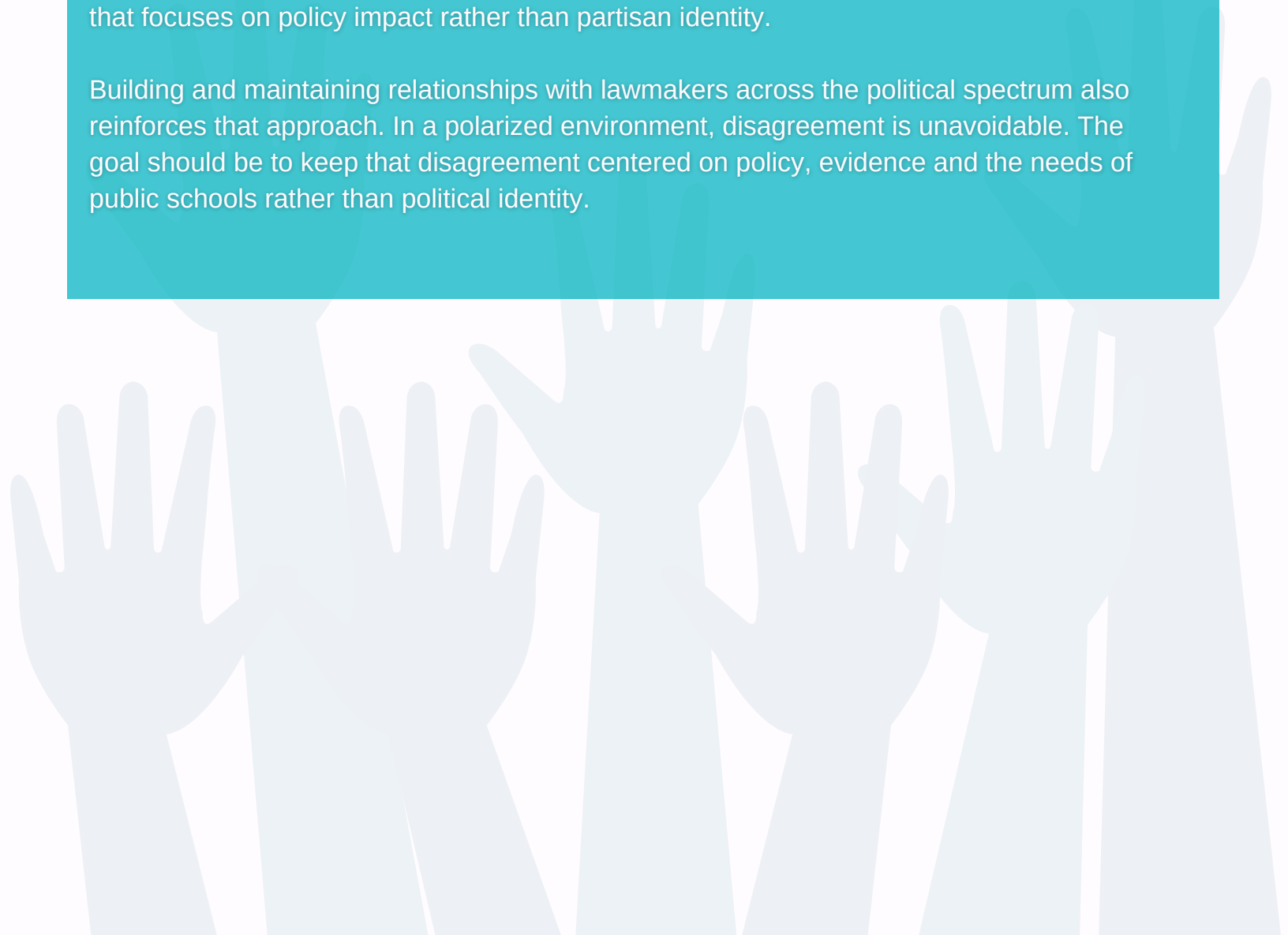
Question 5: What strategies or opportunities do you see to strengthen and preserve ASBA's commitment to non-partisanship in an increasingly polarized environment?

ASBA's nonpartisan position is essential to its credibility. The association represents school boards from communities with very different political views, so its advocacy must remain focused on policy rather than party.

One important strategy is to keep positions clearly tied to the member-approved political agenda and established governance process. Members and policymakers should be able to understand how ASBA reached a position and how that position reflects the priorities of Arizona school boards.

ASBA should also apply consistent standards when evaluating legislation, including its effect on local control, student outcomes, district resources, accountability and board responsibilities. Communication is equally important. ASBA should continue using language that focuses on policy impact rather than partisan identity.

Building and maintaining relationships with lawmakers across the political spectrum also reinforces that approach. In a polarized environment, disagreement is unavoidable. The goal should be to keep that disagreement centered on policy, evidence and the needs of public schools rather than political identity.



Candidates for Treasurer

(presented in alpha-order by last name)

Answers to narrative questions have not been edited and appear as submitted by the candidate.





Andy Fraher

General

Position Running For
Treasurer

District Name
Prescott Unified School District

Student Enrollment
3800

County
Yavapai

Years on Your Board
6

Eligibility Criteria

✓ I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years.

✓ I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2027.

✓ I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA.

Candidate Statement

Hello, my name is Andy Fraher, member of the Prescott Unified School District Governing Board and current Yavapai County Director on the ASBA Board of Directors. I am running for the position of Treasurer on the ASBA Board of Directors because I believe that a member-driven organization needs to have sound fiscal management and transparency in its financial dealings.

ASBA has been a champion of local school districts and board members while it has fought to increase funding for all Arizona districts. Advocating for the Capital Lawsuit, working diligently to counter the negative Proposition 320, and providing added value for membership costs in the last year are all ways that ASBA has worked transparently for its membership.

I will continue to push for the best use of ASBA funds to continue to enhance the level of service provided to each of you, as members of our Association. I will strive to ensure that financial decisions made by the Board of Directors will always take into account the needs of our members as a whole, ensuring that we make equitable choices with the funds we receive

Involvement with ASBA

Served on the ASBA Board of Directors within the past four years

Please provide position(s) held and years
Yavapai County Director - 2025 and 2026 (running for re-election for 2027)

Please provide committee name(s) and year(s) of service
Finance Committee (2025); Governance Committee (2026)

I have served as a delegate at the Delegate Assembly in 2025.

Question 1: What motivated you to seek an ASBA elected officer position, and how does this align with your vision for serving Arizona's school boards?

I am seeking an officer position to continue the push for advocacy on behalf of all districts in Arizona. Coming from a rural district, I see firsthand the need to engage with our elected leaders at the Capitol to ensure our needs are met. This experience, particularly in fighting for equality in funding across the state, has made me keenly aware that our leadership roles always need to keep the students of our districts as the first priority. I believe ASBA sees this and lives this attitude, and I want to continue this effort as a Board Officer

Question 2: What unique capabilities and relevant background experience do you bring to the ASBA Executive Officer Team, and how specifically would you use them for the benefit of ASBA and its members?

As a detail oriented manager of large budgets throughout my 30+ year career in education, I have been able to oversee the development and growth of multiple administrative functions at varying institutions – both public and private. More importantly, I have served with individuals that became leaders in their own rights at a wide range of institutions after getting their start under my supervision.

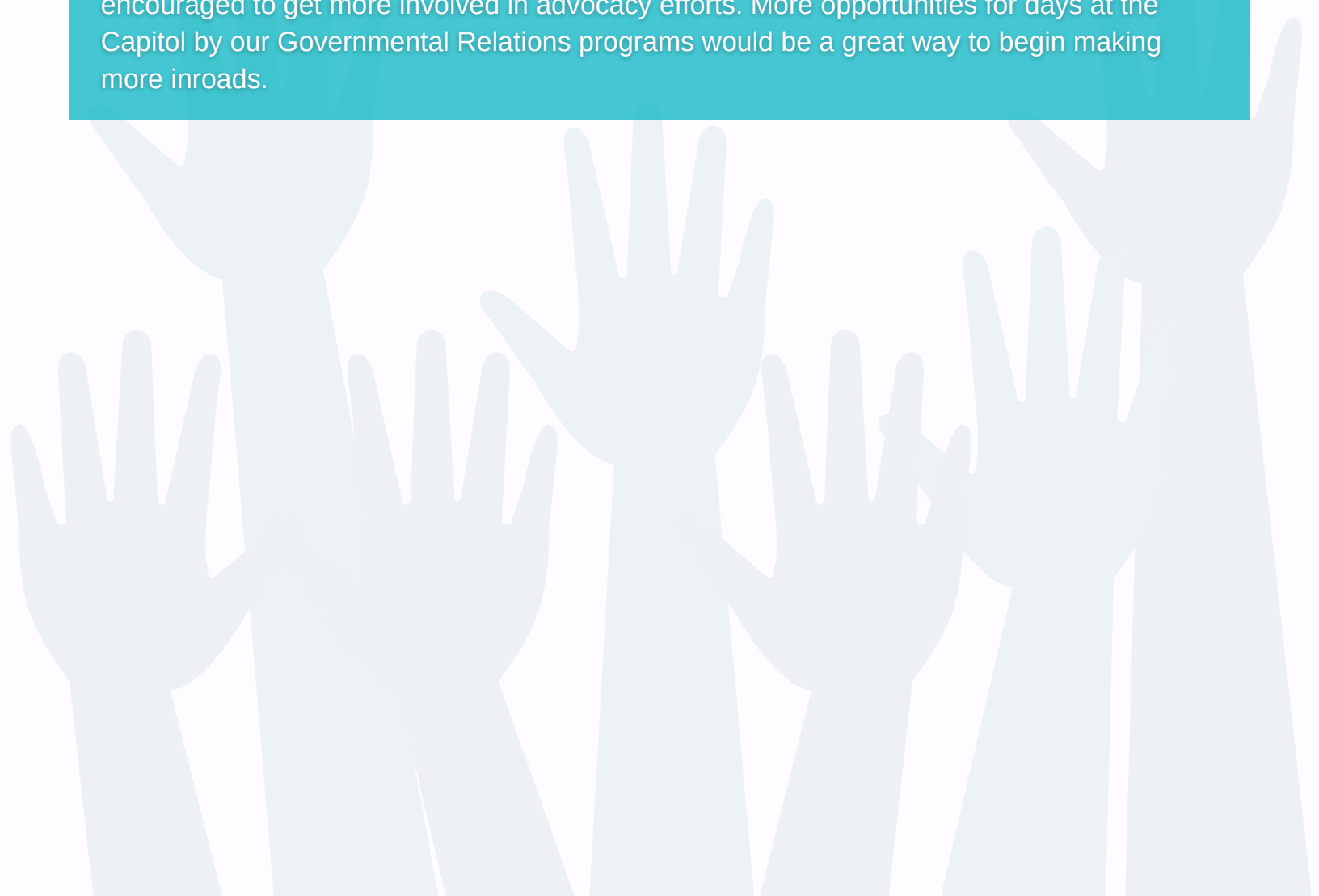
Growth and development have been my hallmarks in my experiences, and I have the capability to do the same in this role with ASBA. As a member of the executive committee of the Board of Directors, I will utilize my experience to ensure the budget for the Association is managed with integrity and that decisions on how to utilize funding are deeply considered with regard to how this will best serve our membership. In chairing the Finance Committee, I'll ensure that all decisions have been thoroughly discussed and thought out before action is taken.

Question 3: What do you believe is the most critical advocacy issue facing Arizona public schools today? Describe the strategy you would recommend for ASBA to effectively represent its members' interests on this issue before the legislature and the public.

Adequate and equitable funding across Arizona for all districts is the greatest advocacy need for our membership. Our education funding formulas need to be changed so that there is no gap in base funding for any public school, and we need to continue to fight against misleading attempts to siphon additional public dollars away from our schools.

Educating all legislators as well as the public on school finance issues so that they understand and can advocate for the best interests of our children should be our strategy forward. I believe that whatever ASBA can do to have greater engagement with members and lawmakers is the most critical advocacy need.

The Arizona State Constitution mandates fair and equitable funding for schools – our member districts need to understand how unbalanced education funding is and be encouraged to get more involved in advocacy efforts. More opportunities for days at the Capitol by our Governmental Relations programs would be a great way to begin making more inroads.



Question 4: Do you believe the current strategic plan reflects ASBA's priorities and direction? Are there any areas you believe should be revisited, clarified, or adjusted, and why? Please be as specific as possible

I believe that the Strategic Plan for ASBA is an excellent foundational document that underpins the work of the organization in developing strong local boards and leaders for schools. The 4 Pillars of the Strategic Plan that build our organization are guiding lights for the work that ASBA does on behalf of members every day.

Excellence in School Board Leadership, Advocacy for educational issues, Policy Leadership and Compliance, and Member-Centered Services and Engagement are outstanding and worthy efforts for the ASBA Board. Providing direction in these areas to ASBA Staff gives Board Members concrete impact on the benefits that ASBA provides to our members. If there are any areas that need to be revisited, I feel Advocacy is the most important. There are so many challenges being thrust upon school districts these days, and our state legislature has consistently tried to pass statutes that are harmful to our state's children.

We need to be strong and earnest in our advocacy for what is best for kids by supporting common sense policy and legislation, and educating our members and the public on our nonpartisan efforts to better the educational experience in Arizona. This should be our number 1 focus at this time.

Question 5: What strategies or opportunities do you see to strengthen and preserve ASBA's commitment to non-partisanship in an increasingly polarized environment?

ASBA should remove all titles or nomenclature that hints at anything resembling partisanship in our efforts. An example would be to remove the "Political Agenda" terminology used to outline ASBA's advocacy efforts with the Arizona Legislature. We are not a partisan political organization, but any time we use the terminology "Political Agenda", we give the impression of having a defined partisan stance. I think we need to work through all ASBA information and remove indications of partisanship wherever possible, so that we can fully educate members, as well as non-members, on the true nature of our Association – being non-partisan and always working for the best interests of the students of Arizona

Candidates for Secretary

(presented in alpha-order by last name)

Answers to narrative questions have not been edited and appear as submitted by the candidate.





Steve Johnson

General

Position Running For
Secretary

District Name
CAVIT

Student Enrollment
1350

County
Pinal

Years on Your Board
3 yrs CAVIT 8 yrs FUSD

Eligibility Criteria

✓ I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years.

✓ I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2027.

✓ I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA.

Candidate Statement

Hello my name is Steve Johnson and I am a current board member at CAVIT. Prior to CAVIT, I served 2 terms on the FUSD governing board. I previously served 7 years as a county director for ASBA. I chair the Credentials Committee and have served this committee since 2017. I was also asked to serve on the Legislative Committee for the past two years. In addition, I represent ASBA on the AIA Executive Council.

I can continue to help our organization move forward. I have navigated the challenges of COVID as a board president. I have served on the ASBA BOD during leadership changes. I believe my leadership and experience is an asset for our organization. I am still growing and learning as a board member but want to share my experience to continue to enhance our organization. I have been very intentional with my professional development that ASBA has provided. I have over 600 hours that I have invested in my servant leadership.

One of my strongest skills is relationship building. In my time I have been with ASBA, I have developed relationships with other board members, superintendents, and our sponsoring vendors. I think it is critical to know what is taking place in public education from Nogales to Flagstaff and everywhere we have students. I am an issue oriented individual and would not be considering a leadership position if I didn't feel our organization was non-partisan. 80% of students come from primarily 3-4 counties but 80% of our boards come from all over our state

Involvement with ASBA

I have served on the ASBA Board of Directors within the past four years.

Please provide position(s) held and years
Pinal County CD 2015-2021

Please provide committee names and years of service.
Credentials, Legislative, 2018-current; 2025-2026

Please provide name(s) of alliance and/or caucus you have been apart of

I have served as a delegate at the Delegate Assembly within the past four years

Please provide year(s)
2016-current

Question 1: What motivated you to seek an ASBA elected officer position, and how does this align with your vision for serving Arizona's school boards?

I will be honest I wasn't originally thinking of running for a position on the BOD. I have been approached by current BOD members, board members, superintendents and was asked if I would be interested in being a candidate. I am a servant leader at heart and have a passion for public education. I believe my past experience as a local board president, ASBA County Director, and serving on current ASBA committees qualifies me as a very qualified candidate. As a long time sports official, business owner, and board member I can make difficult decisions. I approach every challenge trying to understand the big picture. I prefer to work from using a telescope to analyze a problem and then after gathering all the information use the microscope to make a decision. I pride myself on working with a collaborative team approach and treating different perspectives with dignity and respect. I accept and will support the will of the majority. I am still learning more about good boardsmanship but feel my experiences and past leadership can be an asset to ASBA

Question 2: What unique capabilities and relevant background experience do you bring to the ASBA Executive Officer Team, and how specifically would you use them for the benefit of ASBA and its members?

I have served on a governing board since 2015. I have had the honor on serving 2 terms at Florence Unified School District. FUSD has been a finalist for the Lou Ella Kleinz award numerous times. While I was on the board at FUSD, we were encouraged and supported to take advantage of professional development. I have been attending all the training that is offered by ASBA since I first became a board member back in 2015. I enjoy the social aspect and opportunity to network within our association. I have been referred to as a connector. Having established relationships with other board members and school leaders will assist me in being a more effective leader on the ASBA BOD. I am aware of issues impacting Pinal County but also pay attention to our state-wide challenges. I am engaged and been a pro-active member in our association. Serving as your ASBA representative on the AIA has been extremely rewarding and helped me grow as a leader and team player. I also address issues that impact our students and schools throughout our entire member association. I was able to advocate for our students last year when we had unacceptable behavior that took place in one of our high school gyms. Currently I am the board president for CAVIT. I have experience with CTE and traditional districts

Question 3: What do you believe is the most critical advocacy issue facing Arizona public schools today? Describe the strategy you would recommend for ASBA to effectively represent its members' interests on this issue before the legislature and the public

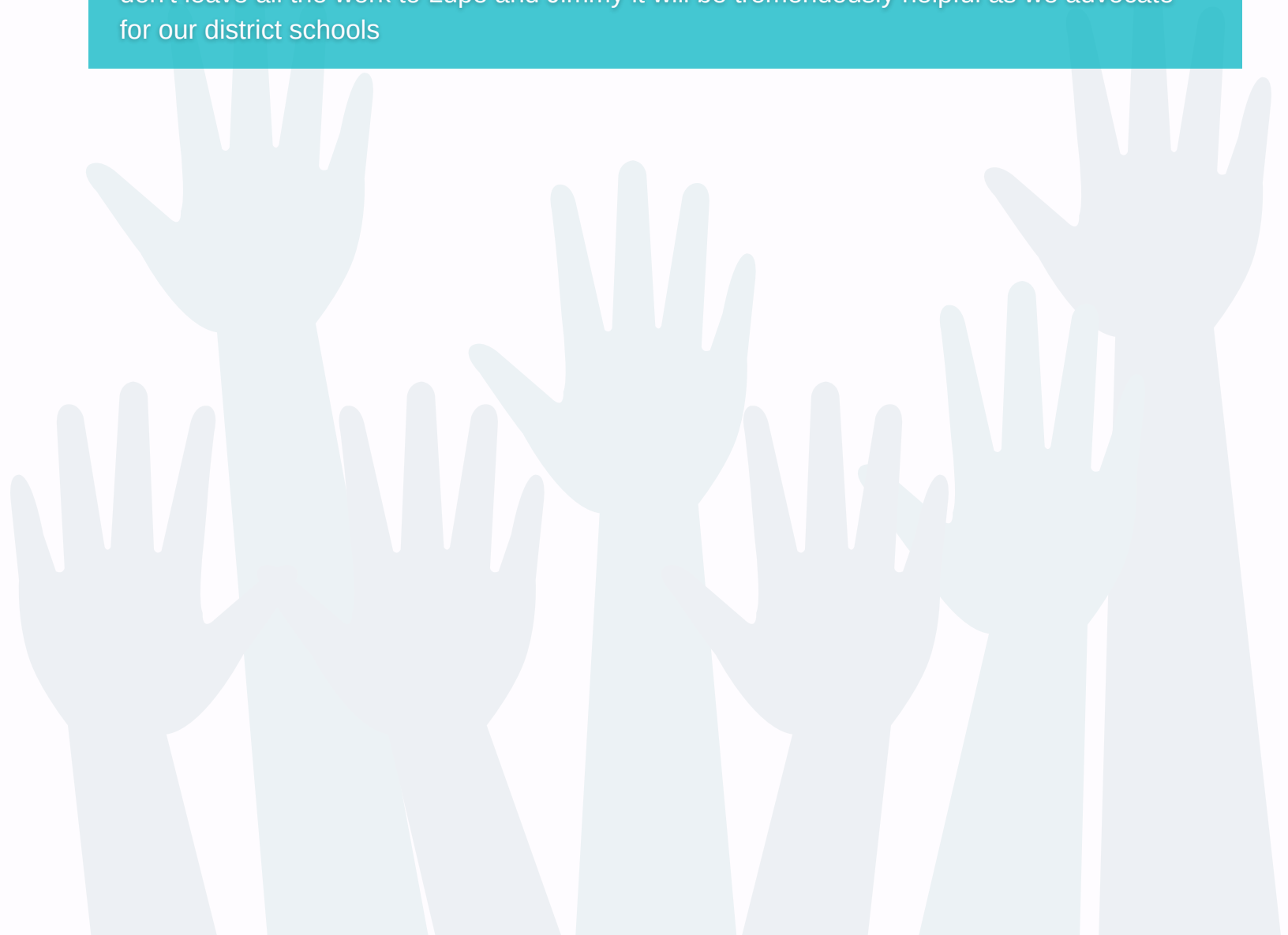
I firmly believe the zip code where you reside should not determine the outcome of the education and opportunities you get to experience. Unfortunately, I don't believe all my community members or elected officials are in agreement. I am committed as a school board member to supporting all the students that are in our educational system. It is easy to support the students from your community or the students that resemble your values and beliefs. However, a truly good board member is going to represent and advocate for all students. If we can advocate for all educational stakeholders to see things from the lens of the student they are serving than from their own perspective, than education in Arizona will begin to move the needle. Removing barriers is a critical component. I believe this should be left up to local control but these barriers are both tangible and intangible. Proper funding is a critical but controversial topic depending on your audience. We know prop 320 came to be because the governor would veto any bills that would be brought forward. ESA's have historically been disapproved by the constituents but our current majority at legislature wants no accountability or guard rails. I don't believe there is any easy answers in our current environment.

Question 4: Do you believe the current strategic plan reflects ASBA's priorities and direction? Are there any areas you believe should be revisited, clarified, or adjusted, and why? Please be as specific as possible

I believe the current strategic plan is well organized and I can see a lot of time and devotion has gone into developing this instrument. When I served on the BOD, I was involved in creating and updating our strategic plans. The challenge is what do you do with the most recent version of the plan. Do you make it a working breathing vessel or do you let it sit until the next group says the plan needs to be updated? I believe our organization has continued to evolve and taking advantage of implementing our plan as our guiding work. A good strategic plan should be understood by all its members not just the leadership. Our strategic plan should guide us and provide direction in everything we do. I firmly believe that ASBA is committed to Student Needs being our priority. Our organization is committed to well trained and knowledgeable local leaders and champions for local control. One area that is challenging but critical is continuing to develop shared responsibility among students, parents/guardians, boards, communities, and stake holders. I believe this is an area that needs to continue to develop. I believe if we only advocate for our own district we miss the opportunity to be strength in numbers. We must continue to strive to be ambassadors for public education

Question 5: What strategies or opportunities do you see to strengthen and preserve ASBA’s commitment to non-partisanship in an increasingly polarized environment?

I believe that if every decision we support as ASBA is from the lens of our students first and not the board member's we find a common ground and starting point. Our commitment needs to support our 3 pillars- Educate, Advocate, and Elevate. We are a private, non-profit and non-partisan organization. The leadership team needs to champion a democratic process. We are committed to professional development, leadership, and educational excellence. I believe it is going to be challenging navigating the waters of public education going forward. However, if collectively we all have our oars in the water and rowing in synch we can still steer a course of success. We also have to know our landscape and how the elected leaders are navigating that landscape. I believe public education is the predominant choice of Arizona families but we would be ignorant not to acknowledge that there are other choices for educational paths. ASBA will need to be steadfast but willing to adapt and adjust to remain viable. If ASBA's membership is well-trained and knowledgeable on policy and don't leave all the work to Lupe and Jimmy it will be tremendously helpful as we advocate for our district schools





Kathryn Mikronis

General

Position Running For
Secretary

District Name
Marana Unified

Student Enrollment
13000

County
Pima

Years on Your Board
4

Eligibility Criteria

✓ I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years.

✓ I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2027.

✓ I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA.

Candidate Statement

I am seeking the position of ASBA Secretary because I believe strong organizations are built through collaboration, consistent leadership, and a commitment to the people they serve. As a member and president of the Marana Unified School District Governing Board, I have helped navigate complex decisions affecting a district that serves both rural and suburban communities across approximately 550 square miles.

Our district encompasses communities with vastly different economic circumstances and political perspectives. This experience has taught me the importance of listening, building relationships, and keeping students at the center of every decision. I have also been actively involved in ASBA, serving as Black Alliance Secretary in 2025 and Vice President in 2026, participating in multiple caucuses, and representing Marana Unified as a delegate. I have completed more than 36 hours of ASBA training and pursued professional development through national school board conferences.

I want to serve as Secretary because I care about ASBA's continued success. I would bring a collaborative leadership style, an understanding of organizational governance, and a commitment to ensuring members have meaningful opportunities to contribute. My goal is simple: to help make an already valuable organization even stronger for the governing boards and students it serves.

Involvement with ASBA

I have served as an officer for an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past four years

Please provide position(s) held and years
Black Alliance Secretary 2025. Black Alliance Vice President 2026

Have you been a member of an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past for years?
Yes

Please provide name(s) of alliance and/or caucus
Rural Caucus 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026: HNIAC 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026: Black Alliance 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

I have served as a delegate at the Delegate Assembly within the past four years

Please provide year(s)
2024 Alternate, 2025, 2026

Question 1: What motivated you to seek an ASBA elected officer position, and how does this align with your vision for serving Arizona's school boards?

My motivation for seeking this position comes from my commitment to public education and the role ASBA plays in helping governing boards succeed. Through caucus leadership, delegate service, and professional development, I have seen how much the association contributes to effective local governance. I want to help strengthen an organization that has helped me grow as a board member. I believe members are most invested when their participation matters. ASBA should not only listen to governing boards but give them meaningful opportunities to contribute ideas, shape priorities, and participate in decisions. Because Arizona districts face different challenges, those opportunities must be accessible to members across the state. As Secretary, I would work with the Executive Officer Team to support transparent processes, clear communication, and strong relationships. My goal is to help ASBA become even more responsive and effective. I believe leadership is measured by what we contribute and the organization we help build.

Question 2: What unique capabilities and relevant background experience do you bring to the ASBA Executive Officer Team, and how specifically would you use them for the benefit of ASBA and its members?

I bring practical governing board leadership and extensive ASBA involvement. Marana Unified serves rural and suburban communities across approximately 550 square miles, with diverse economic and political perspectives and transportation operations covering more than 10,000 miles daily. As board president, I have helped de-escalate difficult situations, maintain relationships, and keep meetings productive despite differing opinions. I also participated in adopting literacy curriculum. Our board has expanded Advanced Placement and career and technical education opportunities while addressing staffing, student support, and financial planning. These decisions taught me to ask informed questions and balance student needs with long-term sustainability. Within ASBA, I served as Black Alliance Secretary in 2025 and Vice President in 2026, participated in the Rural and Hispanic Native American Indian caucuses, and served as a Marana delegate from 2024–2026 after being an alternate in 2023. I have completed over 36 hours of ASBA training and attended national governance and advocacy conferences. As Secretary, I would bring sound judgment, collaborative leadership, and a commitment to accurate records and meaningful member engagement.

Question 3: What do you believe is the most critical advocacy issue facing Arizona public schools today? Describe the strategy you would recommend for ASBA to effectively represent its members' interests on this issue before the legislature and the public.

Arizona's most critical public education advocacy issue is a stable, adequate, and equitable school funding system that reflects the real costs of serving students. Districts must plan for staffing, transportation, facilities, and specialized services despite rising costs and uncertain resources. In Marana Unified, transportation operations cover more than 10,000 miles daily, illustrating how geography affects costs. Rural, suburban, and urban districts face different pressures, and state policy must account for those differences. I would support a three-part ASBA advocacy strategy: gather direct input from districts about funding gaps; develop specific proposals supported by financial data and examples of classroom impact; and build year-round relationships with lawmakers so board members can explain local consequences before decisions are made. ASBA should also help members communicate clearly with families and taxpayers about what funding supports. As Secretary, I would promote advocacy grounded in member priorities, reliable evidence, and practical solutions that allow every district to plan responsibly and serve students well.

Question 4: Do you believe the current strategic plan reflects ASBA's priorities and direction? Are there any areas you believe should be revisited, clarified, or adjusted, and why? Please be as specific as possible

I believe ASBA's strategic direction provides a strong foundation through its focus on board leadership, advocacy, member services, and organizational effectiveness. Rather than change direction for its own sake, I would focus on making the plan more effective in practice. First, member involvement should be meaningful. Caucuses, committees, regional conversations, and direct feedback should give governing boards opportunities to shape priorities, with clear communication about how their input is used. Second, ASBA should report measurable progress toward strategic goals so members can see what has been accomplished and what needs attention. Third, professional development should remain practical, helping board members navigate finances, policy,superintendent relationships, and governance. Our board's 2026 Total Board Boardsmanship Award reflects our commitment to learning. As Secretary, I would support accurate documentation, consistent procedures, and strong relationships among members, staff, and leadership. My goal is to help ASBA translate a strong plan into visible results and even better service to Arizona's governing boards

Question 5: What strategies or opportunities do you see to strengthen and preserve ASBA’s commitment to non-partisanship in an increasingly polarized environment?

ASBA's nonpartisanship is essential to its credibility and ability to represent governing boards across Arizona. Serving a politically diverse district, I have experienced divided votes and learned that effective leadership does not require agreement; it requires fair procedures, respectful discussion, and a focus on students. As board president, I have worked to de-escalate difficult situations, keep meetings productive, and preserve relationships across disagreements. I would bring that approach to ASBA. Nonpartisanship does not mean avoiding controversial education policy. ASBA should take positions based on adopted member priorities, reliable evidence, and the effects on schools—not party affiliation. Members should understand how advocacy positions are developed and have meaningful opportunities to contribute, even when they disagree with the outcome. ASBA must also distinguish education advocacy from partisan political activity and maintain productive relationships with policymakers across the spectrum. As Secretary, I would support transparent decisions, accurate records, and consistent processes that earn members' trust

