

BIOS PANEL

Sharon Kirsch is one of the 6 angry moms who co-founded Save Our Schools Arizona a year and a half ago and one of the thousands of volunteers across the state who fight every day to protect public education. When not volunteering with Save Our Schools, Sharon is an Associate Professor of English and Rhetorical Studies at Arizona State University. She is the mother of two feisty teenagers and believes that the people of Arizona, not out-of-state billionaires, should make decisions about the shape of public education in their state.

Jodi Liggett is the Vice President of External Affairs for Planned Parenthood Arizona, where she oversees reproductive health and rights policy objectives, and the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, that educates voters and candidates for public office. She most recently served as senior policy advisor for City of Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton and was instrumental in achieving housing every chronically homeless veteran as well as the passage of Phoenix's equal pay ordinance.

Tricia Sauer is the Statewide Organizer for Indivisible Project, Co-Director of the We the People Summit and the founder of Civic Engagement Beyond Voting. She has trained over 1,350 on how to use Arizona's Request to Speak System and enabled them to get directly involved in the state's legislative process. She supports 40+ grassroots groups. In the 2018 Midterms, all volunteer AZ Indivisible groups reached out to 24k voters via phone banks and canvassing, another 750k by text and held 80+ events geared toward Independents. She has lived in Arizona for over 20 years.

Alejandra Gomez is Co-executive Director at Living United for Change in Arizona (LUChA), organizing around immigration, worker's rights, living wages, and voter registration. Alejandra began her career in community organizing in 2007, during Sheriff Joe Arpaio's racially-charged criminal suppression sweeps that targeted immigrant communities. She was the Field Manager for the Adios Arpaio campaign that registered over 30,000 Latinos to vote. She served as Deputy Organizing Director at United We Dream during the immigration reform push in 2013 and 2014.

Athena Salman was born in Arizona to working class parents. Her father was born in Palestine and her mother was born in inner city Chicago to immigrant parents from Germany and Mexico. Athena studied at Arizona State University. She has worked with non-profits lobbying Congress and the Legislature on affordable tuition and healthcare for all. She worked as a bellman in a hotel in Phoenix becoming shop steward and helping to empower her mostly female co-workers. She now serves in the AZ House of Representatives where she routinely takes powerful institutions head on in order to protect the public interest.