**Anna Tovar**

**Introduction**

Anna Tovar is the First Latina to be elected for a statewide seat in November 2020. Anna serves as a member of the Arizona Corporation Commission. The prowess of Anna’s political career can also be attributed to support from her family as she’s been married for over 20 years and has two brilliant sons *(*Anna, n.d.). Consequently, the need to provide a better environment for her family and other Arizonian families may be one of the motivating factors towards her political success. In the community, Tovar was seen to be a mentor to many and also a leader. The primary objectives as a leader in the Arizona Corporation commission included; regulation of the public service utility corporations particularly on the quality of services they provide and the charges they impose on consumers. Anna has a commendable background that proves her capability to serve as Arizona’s Corporation commissioner. Tovar's win in the election as Arizona's corporation commissioner can be greatly be attributed to her competency as seen in her political career. Additionally, this paper seeks to inform the role of party strength, money, opponent, and national optics in Anna Tovar's win for the seat of Arizona's corporation commissioner.

**Political Career and Experience**

The earlier career of Anna entailed being a teacher for five years in an Elementary district school in Tolleson. Anna’s Political career started when she took up the seat of the Tolleson City Council where she served for about seven years. The passion for service to her people made her advance to even a more senior position as she went on to become the Vice-mayor where she served for two years(Anna, n.d.). However, this was not the limit for Anna as she later joined the House of Representatives where she performed outstandingly as the minority Whip. Anna understood that to create bring change in many lives of her people she had to take up more responsibilities and even challenging positions. Conversely, in 2013 Anna participated in the senate as District 19 representative where she was mostly tasked to advocate for Tolleson, West Phoenix, Avondale, and even the whole republic of the United States.

Anna also contributed to many community projects as she also worked as the Campaign Director for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society intending to find a cure for cancer and assist other people diagnosed with cancer. Other community-related projects Tovar participated in include the funding of about 100 bone marrow transplant patients *(*Anna, n.d.). Anna has proved to be competent and compassionate in her political career. Consequently, this provided the people of Arizona with more confidence to entrust her to be their corporation commissioner. However, during the 2020 election, Anna being a democrat did not work to her advantage.

**Political Party strength**

Anna was elected despite being a member of the Democratic party. Democrats were mostly perceived by Arizonian residents to be arrogant, boastful, and overconfident politicians (Azcentral,b, 2020). Consequently, such Democrat traits made them lose a greater portion of the competitive seats to the republicans. For instance, in Maricopa County, Julie Gunnigle a Democrat lost to Republican Allister Adele for the position of county attorney’s seat. Most Democrats were only left with the alternative for competing for minority leadership positions. However, Anna’s win for the Arizona corporation commission came out as a surprise and can be used to draw great political lessons. While Most of the democrats’ politicians were uttering outrageous statements to gain popularity Anna resorted to practicing restraint in her political campaigns (Azcentral, a, 2020). Consequently, such moves made Tovar be considerable and can be said to be the result of her win. Another Democrat that won using a similar strategy was Penzone who mostly ran his campaigns quietly. Penzone went as far as shying away from the fact that he was a Democrat. Another reason that might have contributed towards Tovar’s win was that was she had accumulated wealth to fund her campaigns.

**Money**

Anna Tovar’s successful career offered her an opportunity to earn much money that enabled her to fund her political campaign. The influential positions that Tovar previously served include Latino Caucus chair and the mayor which offers proper compensation. Additionally, Anna as a member of clean-energy groups got funds of about $2.7 million which gave her an advantage over the Republican opponent (Azcentral, a,2020). Most Republican candidates were are estimated to get only a hundred thousand dollars from outside groups to fund their campaigns.

The outside funding plays a major role in reaching out to as many voters as possible. Ideally, the contributions from the clean energy groups significantly improved Tovar’s chances of winning the Commissioner’s race. Campaigns normally involve the use of mediums such as mailers, television, radio, and digital advertising. Such means of advertising are normally highly costly hence require a significant amount of funding to use for campaigns. Other campaign-related expenditures include traveling costs, staff, and political consulting. This demonstrates how crucial funding was to Tovar's win over Arizona's corporation commissioner election. Conversely, another successful Democrat beneficiary of the independent group expenditures is William Mundell who acquired nearly $3million for his campaigns (Azcentral, a,2020).

**Political opponents**

Several candidates competed for the general election for the Arizona corporation commission which only comprises three positions. Among the long list of candidates, the three who made it to the commission include; Republican Lea Marquez Peterson who had the second-highest votes of 1,449,963 votes after Anna Tovar who had 1,450,194 votes. The third corporation commissioner was also a republican named James O’Connor who also managed to acquire 1,434,236 votes (Ballotpedia, n.d). Evidently, from the difference in the vote count, the election for the Arizona corporation commission was highly competitive. Other Anna Tovar's opponents include republican Eric Sloan and two democrats William Mundell and Shea Stanfield and lastly Christian Gibson and Patrick Finerd. Most of Anna Tovar’s opponents have also achieved great success in their political careers. For instance, Lea Marquez has among other accomplishments served in Arizona Judicial Council. Anna is the only Democrat among the three Corporation commissioners, this demonstrates the significance of her influence despite being a member of a less popular party in Arizona.

**National Optics**

The United States consists of only two major political parties; the Democrats and the Republican both of who compete to secure most of the powerful positions in different states. Arizona corporation commission election attracted the attention of both parties and each forwarded their best candidates for the positions. The presidential candidate influence for both parties greatly influenced the outcome of the general election for the Arizona corporation commission. Arizona according to their past has seldomly elected a Democrat president which they did once in 1996. Conversely, Arizona has had only two Democratic senators since 1948(Azcentral, b, 2020). This worked towards Anna's disadvantage and as a result, most of the Democratic party members lost to republicans in Arizona. However, Anna still managed to be elected as one of the Arizona corporation commissioners. Ideally, if we're not for Joe Biden and Mark Kelly Arizona would have been dominated by the Republicans.

**Conclusion**

Anna Tovar’s win in the general election for the Arizona commission can be mostly attributed to her experience and expertise in the political arena. Ideally, she served in many political positions where she displayed proficiency as she ensured quality services to her people while also advocating for minority groups. Consequently, such traits made Anna to be favored and elected as Arizona’s first Latino corporation commissioner. Despite being a member of the unpopular political party in Arizona she’s still ensured a win for the commissioner’s seat. Funding from independent groups such as clean-energy also greatly assisted her campaigns. The race for the Arizona corporation commission was quite competitive as the difference in vote count between candidates was quite small. However, Anna still managed to be the best candidate in the election. According to Arizona's past democrats rarely secures political seats in the region. However, due to Joe Biden and Mark Kelly's influence, Anna manages to secure one of the positions for the Arizona corporation commission.

**References**

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