

I'm REALLY Not Running Again

By: Kolby Granville

I've had this conversation so many times over the last 6+ years it's driving me crazy! I'm, literally, just going to take dictation on the conversation I've had 50 times in the last 2-3 years... pardon my rant...

Person: So, what are you going to run for in 2020 when your term is done?

Kolby: Nothing. I believe in term limits. I proposed them twice to Tempe Council and couldn't get any progress on them, but I still believe in them. 8 years is enough. What are you doing to do, tell someone, 'Year 9 is where I really hit my stride and start working'? No, you come in with an agenda, you work that agenda, then you move on and let someone else work their agenda. If you are simply staying in office year after year what you are really saying is, "I don't know what is coming in the way of problems, but I know I'm the most qualified person to deal with it." That's just ego talking and that's how dictatorships start... Besides, politicians are like ice cream cones, they start to melt the moment they are created. By that, I mean, the longer you are in office the harder it gets to remember what it's like to NOT be in office. So, as time goes on, you get sheltered from the truth people experience each day.

Person: So, you aren't running for Council, and you aren't running for Mayor?

Kolby: No, I'm not. There is someone else running for mayor in 2020. I did some polling in 2016 and determined he would have a better chance of winning than I would. So I told him, "Look, you should run. If you don't run, I'll have to run. But I don't want to run, because you have a better chance of winning." In 2017(ish), he decided to run for mayor. He gave me his word he was running, and asked me if I wanted to run for Council again. I told him, "I don't want to run for Council again, 8 years is enough. I took a stab at everything on my to-do list. If you ask me to run again, to support your agenda, I'll run for 4 more years just to support whatever you want to work on because I love Tempe. But my ego doesn't require me being in office." I'm happy to say, the person running for mayor in 2020 hasn't asked me to run again, and so I've made other plans.

My plan is this. Finish out my term in 2020. Go with my wife to work remotely out of Airbnb's for a few years. The current plan is Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Georgia (or Azerbaijan), Turkey, then Denmark. But we might add a place or two.

Person: Then why do you go to so many neighborhood meetings, public outreach meetings, and post so much on Facebook?

Kolby: Because, I actually, genuinely, enjoy listening to neighbors and Tempe residents. It wasn't just a campaign gimmick. I don't enjoy going to fancy award dinners. I don't enjoy going to ribbon cuttings. I really don't enjoy going to political functions of any kind. I ran for Council for exactly the reason I always said I ran for Council, because I love Tempe, and the people of Tempe. And whenever I get a chance to talk to them, it's been a pretty darn good day.

Person: I don't believe you.

Kolby: Yeah, I know... because you can't imagine an elected official who isn't in love with being an elected official, which is a sad state of society... we live in a world of career politicians, and you can't fathom someone seeing politics as service, rather than a career... I'm really, really, just a kid who was a line cook at Long Wong's on Mill who ran for office because he loves his community. I don't like wearing suits. I don't like fancy things. I sleep in \$5 a night hostels when I travel. I'd rather eat Native New

Yorker than...whatever the name of some fancy restaurant would be who's name I don't even know. My favorite movies are V for Vendetta, Fight Club, and Blade Runner... Is it hard to understand that this isn't a person who is in LOVE with being in office?!?! It's service, of no higher or lower quality than being a coach, or a volunteer for cub scouts, or at your church, or for habitat for humanity.

PS. I said in my acceptance speeches on campaign night in 2012 and 2016 that I wouldn't run for a 3rd term. I closed out my campaign account and spent that \$20,000 on neighborhood signs and little libraries for the community instead of holding it for a future campaigns. I have told anyone who has ever asked I wasn't running again. I have posted in comments on facebook discussions AND put it in my holiday card. Why in the world would I propose term limits (twice!) and not impose them on myself?

So, please, pretty please, can I finally quit getting this question so I can go back to doing my job as a city council member?

I am, I swear, the most transparent person. If you ask me a question, I'll tell you the answer. It's on you to actually believe it.

Okay, I'll end my rant now...

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