

**From the Bible belt to the frontlines of the Political Revolution:
A case for Bernie Sanders and Sam Bonge as his delegate from AZ CD8**

When I talk to voters about why Bernie Sanders should be our next President of the United States there are several points I like to make: Bernie has the political history, the policies, and the movement to not only build the America we deserve but to heal this country after 40 years of tax cuts and austerity, after 20 years of war, after never fully recovering from the Great Recession.

Bernie Sanders and his campaign does something that no other candidate can do in my opinion and something that is a key to our victory in 2020. Bernie makes you want to be a better version of yourself. I grew up in the Bible Belt (Trump Land) Oklahoma. I was raised to hate everything the Democrat party stood for and indoctrinated with all the typical beliefs of a modern evangelical Trump voter. These are beliefs I held on to dearly and espoused to anyone that would listen. In 2015 my wife introduced me to the Bernie Sanders campaign and I began to see that these same issues of immigration, LGBTQ rights, abortion, poverty, immigration, healthcare and many more which the Republican party oppose so strongly are just tools used to divide the people up and keep us fighting amongst ourselves.

As a matter of fact, it was Bernie's message of solidarity, caring for the weakest among us, and fighting for someone you don't know that caused me to question all the old GOP talking points in a way I never had before. Bernie's platform forced me to look at all the things the Republican Party prides itself on and realize how cruel, unjust, and undemocratic they were. Moreover, it forced me to look within to see how we as individuals can do and be better versions of ourselves. Solidary with our brothers and sisters is how we can overcome the divisiveness and cruelty that permeates our political process and has led to an economy where most of the country is poor, struggling, broke, and living paycheck to paycheck. Bernie has said it best, "when I hurt you hurt and vice versa". This was the new lens through which I started to view all aspects of life and why I got involved in the political process.

In 2015, as a volunteer for Bernie during the Oklahoma Primary I used this messaging when knocking doors, phone banking, and talking to voters from all backgrounds. In 2017 and 2018 I did the same thing for numerous candidates in the Arizona midterms. It is my firm belief that if we want to change the minds of people across the aisle, we need to start by changing their hearts. Only Bernie Sanders has that message and in addition to his history, policies, movement, and political revolution he will be unstoppable against Trump and his machine. I ask for your support in sending me to the convention as a Bernie Sanders delegate for Arizona Congressional District 8 to make this case in support of the only candidate that can defeat Trump and create a government that works for people.

Stronger Together,

Sam Bonge

