

# THE PHOENIX REPUBLIC

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## Hedges is divisive; return Lujan, Sinema to Legislature in Dist. 15

**HOUSE: DISTRICT 15 FACEOFF**

District 15 is in the heart of Phoenix, and in many respects represents the of the Valley.

Diversity isn't just spoken here, many walks of life are largely embodied by longtime and new resi-

pecting differences — whether it be in age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or income levels — neighborhoods usually come together on issues that matter: Education.

Environment.  
Economy.

ate Sen. Chevront, an openly gay Democrat, faces no opposition. And for good reason. Chevront, a restaurant owner, has aptly represented the district in a professional manner.

ps. Kyrsten Sinema and David Lujan, both Democrats and both lawyers by trade, also are hoping to return to the state Legislature.

They're being challenged by political newcomer Ed Hedges, a retired middle school teacher who's a Republican.

One of the things I love about District 15 is that it's incredibly diverse," Sinema said. "Folks on the



**David Lujan**



**Kyrsten Sinema**

issues that tend to come up at the Legislature sometimes that maybe are not the most important issues in terms of making us strong for the future," Lujan said.

Sinema concurred.

"We have some major, major issues facing our state," she said. "Number one, first and foremost, we have to deal with our economic crisis. Arizona has been hit harder — Arizona government in particular — proportionately speaking, than any other state in the country."

There must be cuts, she said.

"There's no way we can increase taxes. Arizonans won't support it," she said.

Lujan said the environment remains a key issue to constituents.

"They want to make sure we're doing our jobs as stewards of Arizona to keep our beautiful state pristine for the future," she said.

Hedges, a 30-year resident of the district, seems well-intentioned, but misguided.

He is a hard-liner on key issues such as immigration enforcement, education and budgets.

"I'm for closing the borders. That's what a border is for, to separate one country from another," he said, counting immigration as among his top issues.

"We need to get rid of the people who are here illegally," he said. "If the kids are here illegally, I don't think we ought to support their education," he said.

Lujan and Sinema support comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level, including secure borders, a guest worker program and a humanitarian approach to the illegal immigrants working and living here in a productive manner.

It's strange for a public-school teacher (he taught at the now-de-

## Confusion will lead to rail accidents

My prediction for Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa in December: There will be lots of auto and light-rail train accidents wherever the train tracks cross any street.

The streets and intersections are confusing.

— J.G. Eddins, Phoenix

### Vote no on 'urban castles'

Under a zoning request before the Phoenix City Council today, seven-story "urban castle" apartments would replace one- and two-story apartments at Seventh Street and Earll Drive in Phoenix, next to single-family homes. That's more than triple the current height and about twice the density.

The castle design places open space on the interior, surrounded by apartment towers, and sets the towers next to neighborhoods.

"Planned unit development" zoning is supposed to involve neighborhoods in the planning process to ensure compatibility.

In Phoenix's first PUD, the developer hijacked the process and we were ignored. The project is not compatible with our neighborhoods and places a hostile urban castle between us.

To have urban living, we need first to focus development within our underdeveloped core, not disperse intense development into neighborhoods. This project's height, density and setbacks belong in the transit overlay district.

Please contact your council member and tell them to vote no today on Z-119-07-4.

— Robert Warnicke, Phoenix

### Marriage rights not so equal