

## Group 1: City Council in Sunridge, Arizona

In the picturesque town of Sunridge, Arizona, nestled among the saguaro cacti and desert landscape, an exciting political race is unfolding. Riley Rodriguez, a determined and passionate local activist and organizer, has decided to run for a seat on the Sunridge City Council. As the campaign kicks off, Riley faces formidable competition from their opponent, James Wilson, the incumbent, and a seasoned local businessman. The race takes place in a town with unique voter demographics that promise an intriguing election.

### Meet the Candidates

- **Riley Rodriguez:** A local activist known for their on-the-ground organizing work. Riley is a charismatic and idealistic candidate. They believe in progressive policies, including affordable housing initiatives, environmental conservation, and investments in education. Their energy has attracted a dedicated group of young supporters, who are eager for fresh perspectives in local government.
- **James Wilson:** A local businessman who owns several small companies in Sunridge. James is an experienced candidate who has served on the City Council for two terms. He emphasizes fiscal responsibility, business-friendly policies, and maintaining the town's traditional values. He enjoys strong support from the business community and older residents who appreciate his experience.

### Voter Demographics

The total voting age population is 42,548. Voter turnout in similar races peaked recently at 46% in the 2020 election. Sunridge boasts a diverse range of voters, which Riley and James must navigate to secure victory:

- **Young Voters:** Sunridge has a growing population of young professionals attracted to the town's affordable living costs and picturesque surroundings. Riley hopes to capture their enthusiasm by advocating for policies that address their concerns, such as affordable housing, gun violence prevention, and sustainable development.
- **Retirees:** The town is also a haven for retirees who appreciate the tranquility and warmth of the Arizona desert. James aims to maintain their support by promising to protect property values, enhance senior services, and ensure a safe community.
- **Business Community:** Sunridge is home to a variety of local businesses that form the economic backbone of the town. James is well-connected in this community, advocating for policies that promote business growth and stability.
- **Environmental Advocates:** Environmental conservation is a pressing issue in Sunridge, given its natural beauty. Riley plans to win over residents concerned about the environment by championing renewable energy initiatives and open space preservation.

### The Campaign Trail:

As the campaign unfolds, Riley and James embark on a series of spirited debates, town hall meetings, and canvassing efforts. Riley's passionate speeches and social media presence resonate with young voters, while James's experience and community ties appeal to older generations and the business community. Pundits expect James' campaign to greatly outpace Riley's, given his ties to the business community and willingness to accept corporate contributions to his campaign. Riley is aiming to raise \$100,000 for their campaign.

The race intensifies as both candidates unveil their detailed policy proposals:

- Riley proposes a Green Sunridge initiative, which includes investments in solar energy, recycling programs, and the expansion of green spaces.
- James emphasizes fiscal responsibility, pledging to keep property taxes low and support local businesses through tax incentives.

In the weeks leading up to Election Day, Sunridge is alive with campaign rallies, lawn signs, and passionate debates at local diners. The candidates make every effort to reach out to all demographic groups, recognizing the importance of a broad appeal.

---

## Group 2: Battling Gun Violence in Robbinsville

In the heart of New Jersey, the township of Robbinsville stands at a crossroads. A series of tragic school shootings have shaken the community, leading to a heated mayoral race. Taylor Miller, a dedicated advocate for gun violence prevention and a local school teacher, is challenging the incumbent mayor, John Anderson, who has been criticized for his stance against stricter gun control measures. This pivotal election reflects the urgent need for change in the face of a growing crisis.

### Meet the Candidates:

- **Taylor Miller:** An elementary school teacher deeply affected by the recent school shootings in Robbinsville. Taylor is a compassionate and driven candidate who advocates for stricter gun control, enhanced mental health services, and school safety measures. They have garnered strong support from parents, educators, and concerned citizens who want a safer community. So far, Taylor has raised \$27,590 toward their campaign, which is roughly a quarter of their overall fundraising goal.
- **John Anderson:** An incumbent mayor seeking re-election for his third term. Mayor Anderson has been a staunch advocate for gun rights, opposing stricter regulations and arguing that individuals have the right to bear arms. He has traditionally enjoyed the support of pro-gun activists and conservative voters.

### Voter Demographics

Robbinsville is a diverse city with a range of voter demographics, each with its priorities:

- **Parents and Educators:** This group is deeply concerned about the safety of their children in schools and supports Taylor Miller's call for stronger gun control and school safety measures.
- **Gun Rights Advocates:** Robbinsville also has a vocal community of residents who are passionate about their Second Amendment rights and support Mayor Anderson's stance on gun rights.
- **Community Leaders:** Influential community leaders, including religious figures, activists, and business owners, have a significant role in shaping the election's outcome by endorsing their preferred candidate.

### The Campaign Trail

Taylor and Mayor Anderson engage in a fierce campaign marked by passionate debates, town hall meetings, and rallies:

- Taylor highlights their connection to the issue of gun violence prevention and presents detailed plans to enhance gun safety through background checks, mandatory waiting periods, and mental health support.
- Mayor Anderson argues for the protection of Second Amendment rights and the need to address mental health issues separately from gun control. He defends his record on fiscal responsibility and economic development.
- There are rumors of a well-funded independent expenditure campaign lead by advocates for education reform and a handful of wealthy donors. Based on their past campaign efforts, they are expected to spend \$250,000 in attempt to influence this race.

Throughout the campaign, national attention is drawn to Robbinsville as gun violence prevention becomes a central issue in the mayoral race. The total VAP for Robbinsville is 124,379 and pundits expect to see about 76.5% turnout in the general election.

## Group 3: A New Vision for Rural Wisconsin

In the heart of rural Wisconsin's 6th Assembly District, a dynamic public health advocate and former social worker named Cameron Turner is stepping up to run for a seat in the state legislature. Born and raised in this conservative stronghold, Cameron brings fresh ideas and a progressive vision to a traditionally red district. Their campaign is a testament to the power of dialogue and compromise in bridging political divides. They are facing a tough primary election against two other candidates. They must first win a plurality of votes in the primary election before moving on to the general election.

### Meet the Candidates:

- **Cameron Turner:** A public health advocate and former social worker, Cameron is a passionate advocate for affordable healthcare, rural economic development, and environmental conservation. They believe that cooperation and understanding can lead to better solutions for all. They have limited fundraising experience, compared to the other primary candidates, but they are optimistic about raising at least \$25,000 for their campaign.
- **Maggie Thompson:** Maggie is a seasoned politician with decades of experience in local and state government. Born and raised just outside of Milwaukee, she's known for her moderate stance and ability to build bipartisan consensus. Maggie has a background in education, having taught high school history before entering politics.
- **Robert "Bob" Johnson:** Bob Johnson is a retired small business owner who has spent most of his life in the district. He is known for his affable personality and strong community ties. Bob's background is in manufacturing, having run a successful family-owned factory before retiring.

### Voter Demographics:

Overall voter turnout is expected to be low for the primary election. The 6th District of Wisconsin is predominantly rural with a conservative-leaning voter base. Key demographics include:

- **Rural Residents:** Dairy farmers, small business owners, and working-class families make up a significant portion of the district's population. They tend to prioritize conservative values such as limited government intervention and lower taxes.
- **Conservative Base:** Historically, the district has been a stronghold for conservative candidates, with a strong emphasis on traditional family values and Second Amendment rights.
- **Youth Engagement:** Although the district leans conservative, there is a growing interest among young voters in addressing issues such as climate change, access to healthcare, and rural revitalization.

### The Campaign Trail:

Cameron's campaign strategy is built on respectful dialogue and finding common ground with their conservative constituents. Their platform emphasizes:

- **Affordable Healthcare:** Cameron proposes innovative solutions to address the district's healthcare needs while respecting individual choice and fiscal responsibility.
- **Rural Economic Development:** They advocate for investments in local infrastructure, small businesses, and agriculture to stimulate the district's economy.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Cameron presents sustainable and market-driven approaches to tackle environmental challenges while preserving local industries.

Throughout the campaign, Cameron actively engages with the district's residents, attending local events, town hall meetings, and agricultural fairs. Their empathetic approach to understanding the unique challenges faced by rural communities resonates with many voters.

---

## Group 4: A New Voice for Chicago Schools

In the bustling city of Chicago, the school board elections are heating up. Meet Alex Mitchell, a parent of two elementary school students in Chicago's public school system. Alex is determined to make a difference in the city's education system for their kids and is running for a seat on the Chicago School Board, which just moved to an elected 21-member board from each council district in the city.

### The Candidate:

As a parent, Alex has a passion for education and a deep understanding of the challenges students and parents face in Chicago's diverse school system. Alex is a tireless advocate for equitable education, youth empowerment, and community engagement. Their campaign represents a unique perspective as a recent product of the school system. Alex has limited fundraising experience but hopes they can raise \$20,000 for their campaign.

### Campaign Message:

Alex's campaign centers on three core principles:

- **Equitable Education:** Alex is committed to narrowing the achievement gap and ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, have access to high-quality education. They advocate for increased funding for underserved schools, better resources, and support for teachers.
- **Parent and Student Empowerment:** As a parent of public school students, Alex understands the importance of student and parent voices in shaping educational policies. They believe in giving parents and students a say in decisions that affect their education, such as curriculum development and school safety measures.
- **Community Engagement:** Alex aims to foster stronger connections between schools and their surrounding communities. They believe that involving parents, local organizations, and businesses in the educational process can lead to better outcomes for students.

### Campaign Strategy:

Alex is concerned about voter education since this seat is newly elected by district instead of at-large. Voters are not very familiar with selecting candidates for this seat, and Alex is worried about down-ballot roll-off given the ballot will be crowded in a presidential election year.

Alex will aim to build a strong base to mobilize voters using the following strategies:

- **Parent Outreach:** Alex rallies support from fellow parents and recent graduates by organizing parent-led forums and discussions to understand their concerns and aspirations for Chicago schools.
- **Community Engagement:** They actively engage with parents, teachers, and local organizations, seeking their input on improving schools and garnering their support for their campaign.
- **Social Media:** Alex utilizes social media platforms to connect with voters, share their message, and mobilize support.

### Challenges:

Running for school board as a first-time candidate comes with unique challenges:

- **Limited Experience:** Some may question whether Alex has the experience and knowledge needed to serve on the school board, having never held a job in education.
  - **Financial Resources:** Campaign fundraising can be challenging for first-time candidates. Alex is apprehensive about tapping into their network for fundraising.
  - **Time Constraints:** Alex is worried about the time constraints involved in running for office, juggling the schedules of their two kids, and missing out on critical moments in their childhood.
-

## Group 5: Building Safer Pathways in Florida

In the sunshine state of Florida, a recent city planner retiree and grandparent is setting their sights on a unique opportunity to make roads and schools safer against the threat of gun violence. Avery has decided to run for the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Governing Board, which approves federally required plans and transportation policies.

### The Candidate:

Avery Reynolds: A retiree and grandparent of six school-age students has a deep passion for city planning and a strong commitment to public safety. Avery was horrified when they learned about their grandchildren's experience of lockdown drills and believed that innovative solutions could contribute to a safer community. They are inspired by cities and states exploring increased gun safety regulations, such as the "sensitive places" law that could allow entities like the TPO to ban firearms anywhere on the transportation system. They are running for the District 3 seat, including Little Havana which features a significant Cuban population. They hope to raise \$20,000 for their campaign.

### Campaign Message:

Avery's campaign revolves around two key objectives:

- **Enhancing Community Safety:** Avery aims to champion changes in transportation codes and regulations that prioritize school and community safety. This includes outlawing firearms on buses, trains, and even roadways across the state's largest metropolitan area.
- **Student Advocacy:** Avery believes that students should have a voice in decisions that affect their safety. They are an advocate for student involvement in safety planning and emergency response protocols.

### Campaign Strategy:

Avery's campaign strategy is rooted in advocacy and education:

- **Community Outreach:** They actively engage with parents, teachers, and school administrators, gathering input on safety concerns and solutions.
- **Experienced City Planner:** Having served as a city planner for the majority of their career, they have the experience and knowledge to make the policy changes needed to make a difference.
- **Educational Initiatives:** They organize workshops and presentations to educate the public about the potential benefits of their safety-focused proposals.

### Challenges:

Running for TPO as a first-time candidate presents unique challenges:

- **Political Opposition:** Proposing changes to the transportation code may face opposition from individuals who prioritize other aspects of the transportation system, such as cost-effectiveness.
  - **Crowded Field:** Positions on the TPO don't regularly open up, so several other career politicians are also running against Avery.
  - **Complex Decision-Making:** Building code regulations involves a complex decision-making process, and Avery must navigate the intricacies of bureaucracy to make a significant impact.
-

## Group 6: The Unexpected Ascent in Minneapolis

In the heart of a traditionally blue district, a legislative director named Ryan Collins finds themselves at a crossroads. Their journey into politics takes an unexpected turn when their boss resigns unexpectedly, leaving a vacant seat in the state legislature that they contemplate running for just outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota. With the support of their former boss and the challenge of raising campaign funds and securing labor union endorsements, Ryan embarks on a daring quest to represent their community.

### The Candidate:

Ryan is a known fixture in the legislature and is well-liked for their dedication, work ethic, and passion for public service. As a legislative director, they have gained invaluable policy experience and connections, particularly in the community. Now, they seek to step out from behind the scenes and make a difference by running for their boss's seat.

### Campaign Message:

Ryan's campaign message centers on the following key themes:

- **Experience and Dedication:** Ryan emphasizes their years of experience working closely with their former boss, assuring voters of their ability to continue the work they began together.
- **Progressive Policies:** They advocate for progressive policies that align with the values of the district, including healthcare reform, climate action, education equity, and gun safety legislation.
- **Community Engagement:** Ryan pledges to maintain an open dialogue with constituents and actively listen to their concerns and ideas.

### Campaign Strategy:

Ryan's campaign strategy is comprehensive and community-focused:

- **Fundraising:** Recognizing the challenge of raising enough money to be competitive, Ryan engages in grassroots fundraising efforts, including hosting local events, online campaigns, and reaching out to individual donors who share their vision.
- **Labor Unions:** Ryan recognizes the influence of labor unions in their community and actively seeks their support. They meet with union leaders to discuss their campaign platform and align their policies with their members' interests.
- **Endorsements:** Beyond labor unions, Ryan works to secure endorsements from local leaders, community organizations, and influential figures who can lend their credibility to their campaign.

### Challenges:

Running for office comes with several challenges:

- **Fundraising:** Ryan faces an uphill battle in raising sufficient campaign funds to compete effectively in a competitive race. The last time this district saw an open-seat election was 10 years ago, and the winning candidate raised just over \$780,000. The Minneapolis media market is very expensive, and these races are difficult to compete in if you cannot communicate with voters via paid media.
  - **Name Recognition and Coalition Building:** As a legislative director, they will need to work on building name recognition outside of their immediate political circles. They will need to build a strong coalition of support to establish a base.
  - **Competition:** The crowded field of candidates in a safe district means Ryan must distinguish themselves among their fellow members of their own party to stand out.
-

## Group 7: Aiming for Change in Tennessee

In the picturesque town of Greeneville, nestled amidst the rolling hills of Tennessee, an unexpected contender has emerged in the mayoral race. Logan Mendoza, a passionate gun violence prevention activist, is throwing their hat into the ring. Despite hailing from generations of a family deeply rooted in the tradition of sport and game hunting, Logan is determined to bridge divides and lead their conservative hometown toward a safer future.

### The Candidate:

Logan is a dynamic advocate with a personal mission to address gun violence in their community. Raised in a family of sport and game hunters, they understand the cultural importance of responsible gun ownership. Their campaign seeks to balance the preservation of this heritage with the urgent need for sensible gun safety measures.

### Campaign Message:

Logan's campaign centers on the following key areas:

- **Gun Safety Education:** Logan advocates for comprehensive gun safety education programs that teach responsible ownership, safe storage, and handling of firearms.
- **Community-Police Partnerships:** They propose strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and the community through collaborative initiatives aimed at reducing gun violence.
- **Mental Health Resources:** Logan emphasizes the need for accessible mental health services to address underlying issues related to gun violence.

### Campaign Strategy:

Logan's approach encompasses a blend of empathy and education:

- **Community Dialogues:** They host open forums and town hall meetings to engage with residents, aiming to foster a sense of unity and understanding.
- **Hunting Heritage Acknowledgment:** Logan pays tribute to the town's rich hunting tradition, highlighting the importance of responsible gun ownership and stewardship of natural resources.
- **Local Engagement:** Logan actively involves local schools and organizations in educational programs that promote safe gun practices.

### Challenges:

Running for mayor with a focus on gun violence prevention in a conservative town poses several challenges:

- **Cultural Divide & Conservative Values:** Navigating the delicate balance between respecting the town's hunting heritage and advocating for gun safety reforms requires a nuanced approach. Convincing voters to support a candidate who champions gun safety measures may require changing long-held perspectives.
  - **Unseating an Incumbent:** Four years ago, Mayor Sheila Turner was elected with 60% of the vote handily defeating her challenger. Her popularity has taken a hit due to a handful of scandals during this term, including a potential financial conflict of interest with a city contractor and controversial statements she made about the First Amendment protections for book bans. Still, many see her as a powerhouse politically and a strong fundraiser. There are no term limits for municipal elected officials in Greeneville.
  - **Fundraising:** Logan faces potential fundraising difficulties due to the conservative nature of the town and their advocacy for gun violence prevention. They are aiming to raise at least \$25,000.
-