



# DICARLO

## Conservative

FOR

## AZ SENATE LD 22

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Van's interpretation of awards from special interest groups

In his statement in the recently released issue of *Clean Elections Commission Voter Education Guide*, my opponent boasts about the "Friend of the Family" and "Hero of the Taxpayer" awards he has earned. Make no mistake these awards are similar to endorsements in that they are issued in recognition of efforts to carry the water of the group in the legislature. The group reviews and cherry picks bills that they either support or oppose and let their position be known to the legislators. Then, they monitor the legislators' votes on those bills. Toward the end of the legislative session they issue awards in recognition of the fact the legislator voted yes on bills they support and no on bills they oppose. If the legislator plays along, he get the award; if not, well?

The awards sound good but, are you sure the group represents your beliefs on the issues. These groups may be just more lobbying firms that offer their campaign contribution in the form of a public award instead of cash. In the political world, the value of voting record awards is the bit coin of campaign finance. There is a perceived value to the awards however, they appear innocuous and never show up on campaign finance report. Be careful when assigning weight and credibility to an award a legislator receives from these groups. Make sure the group really represents your views before considering their award as evidence of a legislator's adherence to the sound conservative principals you believed they would. An informed voter is the best friend of liberty and our democratic republic. BE AN INFORMED VOTER.

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