

## U of A Student Completes Internship

By Kaitlin Hooker, reporter at large for the UA School of Government and Public Policy

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University of Arizona senior Kaitlin Hooker stirred her coffee and pulled her hair into a ponytail before answering my first question: why had she decided to get involved with local Emily's List affiliate Arizona List?

"I've always been interested in women's empowerment," says Hooker, "but it wasn't until I interned for Running Start, a non profit in Washington D.C., that I realized a great way to empower women was to get them involved in politics."

Hooker says she spent the summer of 2016 interning with the organization, and realized that the systematic sexism political women face can be helped by getting young women involved in politics earlier, and by supporting these women when they decide to run.

"Since then, I've been looking for ways to support women running for office at the local, state, and national level."

Indeed she has. After interning for Running Start, Kaitlin spent the fall of 2016 working on an independent expenditure campaign to elect Hillary Clinton for President and Ann Kirkpatrick to the US Senate.

"Getting involved with Arizona List felt like the right thing for me to do after the election," Hooker says. "It was hard to see so many months of hard work end in a loss, and I figured Arizona List would be a great way for me to get involved again, but this time at the local level."

For those of us who aren't as involved as the U of A senior, Arizona List is the local affiliate to Emily's List, and they endorse and support pro-choice Democratic women running for Arizona offices at all levels.

"I've gotten to do so much as an intern," said Hooker. "We hosted this whole weekend of events and trainings for Arizona List donors and then women who wanted to run for office. I helped Emily's List facilitate these trainings, as well as dipped my toes into event planning and helped set up and coordinate our Tucson lunch and Phoenix reception. Besides that, I've worked on graphic design for candidate cards, flyers, and endorsements, tracked memberships and donations in our database, and have gotten to meet so many tremendously nice people involved in Tucson politics."

Hooker is graduating from the honors college this May with degrees in Political Science and English, so I asked what was next for her.

"Arizona List has actually opened so many doors to me," she said with a smile. "Most recently I've been working on Felicia Chew's campaign—a wonderful women running for city council in Ward 3. I'm actually in the process now of drawing up contracts with her campaign to come on as a co- campaign manager after I graduate."

Hooker says she doesn't plan on working in Tucson politics forever, but would like to work with the Chew campaign through the primary election, which falls on August 29th this year.

"My favorite part about interning for Arizona List is the diversity of what I've learned and been exposed to. I've never felt like a standard intern, given only busy work to do. With AZ List I've learned how to do everything from dress a candidate for success, write scripts for donation request calls, track voting and donation records in VAN, and how to network! I couldn't be more grateful for the experience."