



## The Facts: Kyrsten Sinema’s Childhood

### Initially Sinema Had An Average, Middle-Class Upbringing.

**Arizona Republic: “Sinema Was Born In 1976 To A Middle-Class Family In Tucson.”** “Sinema was born in 1976 to a middle-class family in Tucson... By 1983, Sinema’s parents had divorced. Within a few years, her father would file for bankruptcy protection and her mother, a child of poverty, would return to pennilessness.” [Arizona Republic, [1/30/16](#)]

### Her Father Lost His Job, Her Parents Divorced And Sold Their House. She Then Moved With Her Mother & Stepfather Into An Abandoned Gas Station Where She Lived For About 3 Years.

**Sinema’s Father Lost His Job.** “Sinema typically says the problems started when her father lost his job amid the 1980s recession.” [Arizona Republic, [1/30/16](#)]

**April 1984: Sinema Family’s Tucson House On Sunburst Place Was Sold.** [Joint Tenancy Deed, [4/13/84](#)]

**Joint Tenancy Deed**

For the consideration of Ten Dollars, and other valuable considerations, I or we,  
MARILYN K. SINEMA, an unmarried woman

do hereby convey to RALPH PACHECO AND JOSEPHINE PACHECO, husband and wife

not as tenants in common and not as community property estate, but as joint tenants with right of survivorship, the following described property situated in the County of PIMA, State of Arizona.

Lot 116, RANCHO CATALINA, Pima County, Arizona, according to the plat of record in the office of the Pima County Recorder in Book 23 of Maps, page 68.

SUBJECT TO that certain Deed of Trust dated June 3, 1976 and recorded June 24, 1976 in Docket 5298 at page 139, which Deed of Trust the Grantees herein agree to assume and discharge according to the terms and conditions contained therein.

**Arizona Republic On Sinema: “From Ages 8 To 11 Her Family Lived In An Abandoned Gas Station In Florida.”** “Sinema, among red-state Arizona’s most formidable Democrats, agreed that lawmakers needed to renew the program. And then she got personal. ‘I was one of the kids who benefited from that program because we were very poor,’ Sinema, a social worker herself before grad school and politics, told Wootten. ‘I would spend my summers at elementary schools eating free breakfast and free lunch.’ She didn’t add the usual coda: that from ages 8 to 11 her family lived in an abandoned gas station in Florida.” [Arizona Republic, [1/30/16](#)]

**October 1986: Sinema’s Mother Reported She Had \$13.69 In The Bank.** “Marilyn later sent the court a list of her monthly finances. She had \$13.69 in the bank.”

List all bank accounts, including checking, savings, credit union, certificates of deposit, in your name, in name of both spouses or in which you have an interest.

BANK/BRANCH	TYPE OF ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NO.	AMOUNT
Sun 1st Nat'l of DeFuniak	Business		\$ 7.61
Sun 1st Nat'l of DeFuniak	Regular Checking		6.08

List all stocks, bonds, shares and cash in your name, in name of both spouses or in which you have an interest None

[Arizona Republic, [1/30/16](#); Arizona Superior Court – Pima County, Case No. D-47720, Affidavit to be Signed by Spouse on Order to Show Cause, filed 10/30/1986]

### **The Gas Station Was Abandoned.**

**The Washington Post Reported Sinema Lived In An Abandoned Gas Station And Country Store In Florida.** “The simple, cinder-block structure looks like it hasn’t been used in decades. A board covers one large window, and broken glass hangs in another. Rotten beams frame the roof. Out front, a tall, rusted light pole rises from an oval concrete pad, a ghostly reminder of the gas pumps that stood there long ago. This former gas station and country store on a rolling ribbon of rural highway in the Florida Panhandle, across the road from an endless vista of cotton fields, is a main character in Rep. Kyrsten Sinema’s life story.” [Washington Post, [8/30/18](#)]

**The Washington Post Reported The Gas Station Had Been “Shuttered For Years” When Sinema’s Family Moved In.** “When Andy Howard’s parents bought the land in 1977, the cinder-block building was called Tom’s Country Store and sold basic provisions, animal feed and gasoline, two neighbors said. Howard’s parents ran it briefly, but it had been shuttered for years by the time Sinema’s family moved in.” [Washington Post, [8/30/18](#)]

**The Former Gas Station Owner Confirmed The Gas Station Was Abandoned.** “Outside he pumped diesel and gas, Paschal said. ‘It’s just a little concrete block building, not very big,’ he said, about 800 square feet, according to records. ‘The store has been closed for years.’ [...] ‘My wife says Andy and Marilyn lived in there for a little while,’ he says. “The old store building now is just kind of storage.” [Arizona Republic, [1/30/16](#)]

**Sinema’s Aunt On The Gas Station: “It Was Kind Of Like An Abandoned Store, And You Could See Where The Gas Tanks Had Been Located.”** “When asked about the gas station’s location, her aunt Wiley couldn’t remember the address. But she recalled visiting the run-down shack after the family had moved to the farmhouse. It was close enough to walk to the stepgrandparents’ home, she thought. ‘It was kind of like an abandoned store, and you could see where the gas tanks had been located,’ Wiley said.” [Arizona Republic, [1/30/16](#)]

### **The Abandoned Gas Station Did Not Have Basic Utilities, Like Power Or Running Water. She Was Able To Bathe At Her Stepgrandparents’ Home.**

**The Washington Post Reported Sinema’s Experience Was “Backed Up By Her Parents, Other Relatives, And Friends.”** [Washington Post, [8/30/18](#)]

**Andy and Marilyn Howard, Sinema’s Stepfather and Mother, Confirm Her Statements.** “Kyrsten is right about this challenging time in our lives. After we married, we left Tucson with the anticipation of a job in Florida which did not materialize. With no source of income, we lived in Andy’s parents’ closed country gas station without electricity, bathroom facilities or running water. With the assistance of family, friends and our church, we overcame the trials that we faced and moved into a farmhouse less than three years later. It upsets us that Kyrsten has fought to become successful, utilizing the skills she developed because of these challenges, only to have people question it now.”

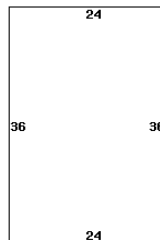
**Sandy Wiley, Sinema’s Aunt, Confirms Her Statements.** “I remember the gas station Kyrsten was in during this time in her life and, unfortunately, she’s right about the way she describes it. This was a very difficult, very painful time for our family. I am so proud of her: she never let this challenge hold her back. Instead, it drove her to help others who are struggling.”

**Stefanie Bozeman West, Sinema’s Childhood Friend, Confirms Her Statements.** “Kyrsten was one of my best friends growing up. We spent a lot of time together, both in school and out. We would often have sleepovers at my house and she joined my family in numerous activities. She and her family had kind and generous spirits, despite any struggles they encountered. I definitely remember Kyrsten having to shower at her grandparents because they had no running water. They were all very excited when they moved out of the gas station into their new home. Kyrsten has always been determined and motivated to succeed. Whatever she sets her mind to, she accomplishes, with grace and dignity.”

**The Washington Post Reported That Sinema’s Paternal Grandfather Confirmed Sinema’s Family Used A Hose As A Water Source And “Lived In Pretty Tough Circumstances.”** “The four family members who lived in the building with Sinema — her mother, stepfather and two siblings — declined to speak to The Post. But her paternal grandfather, Gerald Sinema, said Sinema’s brother described to him using a hose as a source of water. ‘They lived in pretty tough circumstances,’ he said.” [Washington Post, [8/30/18](#)]

**The Washington Post Reported That The Water Utility Did Not Provide Service To The Property Until 2002.** “The local power company said records from that time are not publicly available, and the water utility did not begin providing service to the property until 2002, an official said. Many rural properties relied on well water, people in the community said.” [Washington Post, [8/30/18](#)]

**Abandoned Gas Station Was 864 Square Feet:**



[Walton County Property Records – Parcel 17-4N-20-29000-001-0070, Accessed [August 2018](#)]

**Government Definitions and Experts: Krysten Experienced Homelessness.**

**Federal Government’s Definition Of Homelessness Includes Individuals Living In An “Abandoned Building” Or “In Any Other Unstable Or Non-Permanent Situation.”** “A homeless person is an individual without permanent housing who may live on the streets; stay in a shelter, mission, single room occupancy facilities, abandoned building or vehicle; or in any other unstable or non-permanent situation.” [Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C., 254b), Accessed [August 2018](#)]

**The State Of Florida’s Definition Of Homelessness Includes Abandoned Buildings.** [Florida Department of Children and Families, Accessed [August 2018](#)]

**Arizona Defines A Homeless Minor As Someone Under 18 Years Of Age Whose Primary Residence Is “A Place Not Designed For Or Ordinarily Used For Sleeping By Human Beings.”** [Contracts Chapter, Capacity to Contract]. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 44-132 (2015). [National Network for Youth, Accessed [August 2018](#)]

**From Barbara Duffield, Executive Director of SchoolHouse Connection:** “A constant challenge to our work is the fundamental misunderstanding around homelessness. Shelters for families with children are not widely available and many are full. Families and individuals are often left to find their own means, as Kyrsten’s family did. Even the most restrictive federal definition of homelessness encompasses a gas station, which was never intended to be a home even if it has to be used as one. Kyrsten has been a critical voice on this issue and I believe it’s because she’s experienced these challenges not only as a professional in her social work but as a child.”

**From from Amy Schwabenlender, Executive Director of the Human Services Campus in Phoenix:** “Any family living in the conditions Kyrsten was in would undoubtedly be considered homeless. Sadly, these are the kinds of situations we often deal with. There’s no one way someone experiences homelessness: it’s a complex condition characterized by instability, a lack of basic needs – and for many a deep fear of stigma and judgment. It’s wrong to reject anyone’s experience because it doesn’t match a stereotype.”

### **In Nearly Three Years, With Help From Her Community, Sinema and Her Family Were Able To Move Into A Home.**

**The Washington Post Reported That Sinema’s Family Moved Out Of The Gas Station When Her Stepfather Secured A Job At The County School System And A Mormon Bishop Helped The Family Obtain A Mortgage For 60 Acres Of Property.** “When Sinema was 11, her family moved out of the old gas station and country store. Her stepfather had secured a job in 1986 as a computer instructor with the county school system, earning a starting salary of \$25,879, school records show. In July 1987, he and Marilyn bought 60 acres about six miles down the road with the help of a local Mormon bishop, who helped the family obtain a mortgage, according to the campaign.” [Washington Post, [8/30/18](#)]

### **A Bishop Riker Van Arsdall Helped Andy And Marilyn Howard Secure A \$100,000 Mortgage For A Farm House.**

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT we, Harry Andrew Howard and Marilyn K. Howard, husband and wife, for and in consideration of the sum of (\$99,476.96) Ninety-nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-six and 96/100 Dollars, in hand paid by Riker S. Van Arsdall and Donna Van Arsdall, husband and wife, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, and sold and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said mortgagees, their heirs and assigns, forever, the following described real estate, situate, lying and being in Walton County, Florida, to-wit:

A parcel of land 165 feet East and West by 2640 feet North and South in the East ½ of NE¼ of Section 36, Township 4 North, Range 20 West.

More particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Northwest corner of the NE¼ of NE¼ of Section 36, Township 4 North, Range 20 West. thence run East 990 feet along North boundary line of said section for point of beginning, thence run East 165 feet on North boundary line of said section, thence run South 2640 feet on line parallel to East boundary line of said section, thence run West 165 feet on half section line of said section, thence run North 2640 feet on line parallel to East boundary line of said section to point of beginning, being 10 acres more or less.

[Walton County Property Records, Farm House Mortgage, [7/13/87](#)]

**Bishop Riker Van Arsdall Helped Andy And Marilyn Howard Secure A \$100,000 Mortgage To Buy A Modest Farmhouse In 1987.** “Sinema’s family situation began to improve in 1987, nearly three years after they moved to Florida [...] The couple also had found a modest farmhouse for sale on a spacious wooded property. They could rent its field for grazing cattle, records show. To move in, the family received help from the church once more. The local Mormon bishop, Riker Van Arsdall, extended Andy and Marilyn a nearly \$100,000 mortgage. The late bishop was fond of the Howards and felt called to extend credit to the needy, his son Scott Van Arsdall recalled. ‘He knew what some of the hard times were like first-hand. He had worked his way up,’ said Van Arsdall, 48, now a Florida

restaurant manager. ‘With the Howards, he had a good feeling about them.’” [Arizona Republic, [1/30/16](#)]