

State Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford

Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford served 8 years as a State Representative, and in 2010, she won the Senate seat. Senator Cajero Bedford became the second generation in her family to represent southern Arizonans at the state Capitol. Before serving Tucsonans at the state level, Senator Cajero Bedford was a business owner and a director of sales and marketing for the tourism/hotel industry. This made her a strong advocate of small companies and economic development. She has been involved with a number of civic organizations, including the Girl Scouts, Arizona Tourism Advisory Council, National Association of Latino Elected Officials, Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International, Women in Government, and National Conference of State Legislatures. Increasing career and technical education in high school curriculum has been one of her goals in the legislature. She was awarded with the "Walk the Talk" award by the Arizona Medical Association in 2007.



Pima County Justice of the Peace Erica Cornejo

Erica A. Cornejo, the newly elected Justice of the Peace for Precinct Two, was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona. She attended Bryn Mawr College where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art History. After some time traveling abroad, then living outside of Arizona, the events of September 11, 2001 brought Erica back to Tucson to be closer to her family.

In 2003, Erica went to law school at the University of Arizona. After graduation, she worked for the Pima County Attorney's Office for seven years in the Misdemeanor and Juvenile Divisions. After leaving the County Attorney's Office, Erica opened her own law firm in January, 2014 where she practiced in the areas of dependencies and delinquencies in Pima County Juvenile Court.



State Senator Andrea Dalessandro

Third time was a charm for Legislative District (LD) 2 Senator Andrea Dalessandro. After losing House races in the old LD 30 in 2008 and 2010, she was successful in winning her race for the House of Representatives in the new LD 2 in November, 2012. She served 13 months in the Arizona House before being unanimously appointed to the Senate by the Pima County Board of Supervisors and won her 2014 re-election to the Senate. She worked 25 years as a math and accounting educator and had an equally long career as a Certified Public Accountant/tax accountant. She serves on the Judiciary, Financial Institutions, and Water and Energy Committees. Currently, she is a State Director for Women in Government and holds a BA and MA in Mathematics Education and an MBA in Professional Education. She is a registered Democrat and represents part of Pima and all of Santa Cruz Counties.



Sunnyside Governing Board Member Eva Dong

Eva Carrillo Dong worked at the Pima County Juvenile Court Center for 20 years. When she retired, Eva was Superintendent and supervised the students and educational staff at Pima County Juvenile Detention Center and Pima County Adult Detention Center. Eva has been a Board Member with the Sunnyside Unified School District for 18 years. She knows that a solid preparation in education is the key to stronger and healthier communities. Currently, Eva is the First Vice-Chair for LD3. She has worked on electoral campaigns for over 20 years. Eva helped start the organization Las Adelitas Arizona that works on empowering women to become leaders in their communities at all levels. She is a strong union supporter with Jobs with Justice, Cesar Chavez Holiday Coalition and Dolores Huerta Celebración de la Mujer: Noche de Resistencia. Eva enjoys working with the youth and enabling them to understand that everyone's voice matters, is important, and should be heard.



State Representative Kirsten Engel

A law professor and now a state legislator, Kirsten Engel has always seen her career as a way to use her training to serve the public. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Brown University, she attended Northwestern University School of Law. Kirsten's first law job was working as a staff attorney for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, assisting the agency in the cleanup of abandoned hazardous waste sites. She left the EPA for the nonprofit environmental organization Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now "Earthjustice"), litigating on behalf of the environment in its Washington, D.C. office. She launched her law teaching career in 1992, earning her positions at Tulane, Vanderbilt, Harvard, and today, the University of Arizona. Along the way, she served as the Chief of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Environmental Protection Division. She has been active on education and environmental issues, and in November 2016, she won a seat in the Arizona House of Representatives, serving District 10 in Tucson. Kirsten is a registered Democrat.



Pima County Justice of the Peace Maria Felix

Judge Maria Felix was elected as Justice of the Peace of Pima County Consolidated Justice Courts, beginning her term in 2005. While on the bench, she introduced several specialty courts, including the Domestic Violence Court, the Veteran's Court, and the Animal Welfare Court. She served as Presiding Judge, Alternate Presiding Judge, and Chief Administrative Judge of the JP Court in Tucson. She received her J.D. from the University of Arizona, College of Law in 1995, and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Arizona in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Prior to becoming a judge, she was in private practice representing clients in family law and criminal defense at the juvenile, city, state, Pascua Yaqui Tribal Court, and federal courts. In 2015, Judge Felix was honored by her peers with the Sherry Geisler Award for Justice of the Peace of the Year for the State of Arizona.



Pima County Treasurer Beth Ford

Pima County Treasurer Beth Ford graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor's of Science degree with an accounting major. Since 1988, she has been a Certified Public Accountant. Before entering politics, she was employed by Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) as an accountant and Financial Services Manager. She resides in Tucson with her two dogs and her son and daughter in the area. She became Pima County Treasurer in 2001. Beth enjoys gardening, playing the piano, and cheering on the U of A Wildcat basketball team in her spare time. She is a registered Republican.



TUSD Governing Board Member Kristel Foster

Kristel Ann Foster was elected in 2012 to the TUSD Governing Board and re-elected in November, 2016 to serve four more years. Kristel works at Sunnyside Unified School District as a program specialist with the Language Acquisition Department. She obtained her BA in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University followed by an MA in Educational Leadership. She also has an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Arizona. Her goals in serving TUSD are to prioritize student achievement, increase teacher professionalism, improve district morale, rebuild community trust, and foster stewardship and fiscal performance. She is proud to be a registered Democrat and precinct committeeperson in her Legislative District 10.



State Representative Rosanna Gabaldon

Rosanna Gabaldon believes in creating opportunities and prosperity by supporting and encouraging public education and economic development efforts. She is a champion for protecting Arizona's unique environment and protecting our most vulnerable. She is serving her third term as an Arizona State Representative for Legislative District 2, and she is a past Council Member of the Town of Sahuarita. Rosanna is known for her work with the local business community, school boards and major business partners to bring together successful opportunities for growth and education. She is most proud of her participation in programs that involve working with children. Rosanna also serves on the Friends of the Green Valley Library, the Southeast Arizona Advisory Board of the Chicanos Por La Causa, and the Advisory Council of the Green Valley Salvation Army, and she is a member of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum Board of the International Boundary Water Commission.



State Representative Sally Ann Gonzales

Representative Sally Ann Gonzales is in her last term in the Arizona House of Representatives. In 2018, she is running for the Senate. Currently, she is the ranking member of the House Judiciary & Public Safety Committee and a member of the House Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee. Representative Gonzales is Yoeme and a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. In 1996, she became the first Native American woman to be elected to the Arizona State Legislature. She holds a BA in Elementary Education from Arizona State University and a Masters in Multicultural Education from the University of Arizona. Representative Gonzales is a former classroom teacher for TUSD, teaching 4th and 5th grades in a bilingual setting. She enjoys sewing, reading, camping, traveling and spending time with her 23 grandchildren.



TUSD Governing Board Member Adelita Grijalva

As a native Tucsonan, educated through Tucson Unified School District schools and the University of Arizona, Adelita Grijalva "is committed to improving the quality of life in Pima County." She has worked with youth and their families as the Director of Pima County Teen Court, a Juvenile Court diversion program, and she was named Arizona School Counselor Advocate of the Year in 2008. She is the youngest woman ever to have been elected to the TUSD Governing Board. Adelita has also served as a member of the Democratic National Committee, Las Adelitas, and the National Association of Latino Elected Officials. She lives in Tucson with her husband, Sol Gomez, and is a registered Democrat. She and her husband have three children, all of whom attend TUSD.



State Representative Pamela Powers Hannley

Prior to being elected to the Arizona House in November, 2016, Pamela Powers Hannley, MPH had a long career in public health, health promotion, behavioral research, and communications. Most recently, she was the managing editor for the *American Journal of Medicine*. Powers Hannley was formerly the program director of the Arizona Smokers' Helpline at The University of Arizona and a consultant for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In the Arizona House, Powers Hannley is the ranking Democrat on the Health Committee and serves on the Banking and Insurance Committee. Powers Hannley holds a Master's in Public Health from The University of Arizona and a BA in Journalism from The Ohio State University. In her spare time, Powers Hannley is a progressive activist and blogger. She regularly writes about politics, economics, feminism, healthcare, drug policy, and immigration for Blog for Arizona, the Tucson Progressive, and the Huffington Post.



Clerk of Pima County Superior Court Toni Hellon

Toni Hellon has been the Clerk of Superior Court in Pima County since 2013. She is running for re-election next year. She joined the Clerk's office in early 2007, after serving six years as an Arizona State Senator from northwest Tucson and Pima County, where she chaired the Senate Education Committee. Hellon has a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Arizona, where she was editor of the Tombstone Epitaph. In her 41 years of Arizona political involvement, she chaired the Pima County Republican Party and managed many campaigns, including Senator and County Supervisor Ann Day, Mayor Bob Walkup, Governor Jane Hull, Secretary of State Betsey Bayless, three for Congressman Jim Kolbe, and several other local races.

“There is simply nothing in politics that I have not done in my career,” Toni says.



U.S. Representative Martha McSally

Congresswoman Martha McSally represents Arizona's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, where she serves on the Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees and as the Chairwoman of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee. She is a Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and earned two Masters degrees, including one from Harvard. McSally was the first woman in our nation's history to fly a fighter jet in combat and command a fighter squadron. During her 26-year military career, she deployed six times to the Middle East and Afghanistan--flying 325 combat hours in the A-10 and earning a Bronze Star and six air medals. McSally led oversight of combat search and rescue and time sensitive targeting operations in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as counter-terrorism operations in Africa. She retired in 2010 as a full Colonel.



Pima County Justice of the Peace Charlene Pesquiera

Charlene Pesquiera was elected Justice of the Peace in 2016 for Precinct Four, Tucson's west side. She also presides over the Specialty Court for the Homeless and is a member of the American Judges Association and the Justice of the Peace Association. She was an elected Arizona State Senator from 2007 to 2009, and she was a Criminal Justice Adjunct Professor. She attended Drexel Elementary, Apollo Middle School and Sunnyside High School. She received a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix, a Pre Law and Criminal Justice degree from Prescott College, and an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice and Corrections from Pima Community College. She has been a board member for the Tucson Mountains Association, Dancing in the Street AZ (Youth Ballet), and the Primavera Foundation. Charlene enjoys running and has participated in 14 marathons throughout the United States.



TUSD Governing Board Member Rachael Sedgwick

Rachael Sedgwick is the newest member of the TUSD Governing Board, which she joined in January, 2017. She graduated from the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, with a J.D. this May, and she is in the process of getting licensed as an attorney. Though she is an Arizona native, she spent many of her formative years on the east coast. She holds a B.A. in English from Cabrini College and an M.S.Ed. in Secondary Education from the University of Pennsylvania. She was a teacher and educational leader for more than 10 years before going to law school, and she worked in diverse locations, including Arizona, California, Connecticut, Italy, Spain, and Colombia. She ran for the TUSD School Board because she is passionate about improving systems of education, and she believes that the quality of our public schools determines the quality of our community. She was surprised to win her first election, but she looks forward to helping improve TUSD public schools for the next 4 years.

