8:15am  Registration of High School Students
8:30am  Opening Remarks- Pledge of Allegiance - Moderator Judge Abrams
8:40-8:45am  Welcome- Superintendent Dr. Manuel Valenzuela
8:45-9:15am  Remarks and Introduction of Women - Judge Abrams
9:15-11:15am  Networking with Elected Officials/Candidates
11:15-11:30am  Wrap-up
11:45-12:00pm  Find the Leader in You - Assistant Principal Mike Szolowicz
12:00-12:30pm  Lunch
12:30-1:30pm  Design US Congressional Campaign – Moderator Cheryl Whited
1:30-2:15pm  Candidate Speeches (Bldg.F-104)
2:15-2:35pm  R&W Election
2:35-2:50pm  Swear in the R&W Election Winner-Judge Abrams
2:50-3:00pm  Wrap Up & R&W Certificates
3:00-3:10pm  Evaluations & Thanks
Born in Wisconsin, Dr. Arzoumanian has lived all over the country working as a teacher, as a devout community activist and continually advancing her education. Arzoumanian has taught early childhood education to college students. When she moved to Arizona, she helped organize the first accredited early childhood program in public housing in the United States. She has engaged in various projects meant to further education, especially in at-risk neighborhoods. First elected as Pima County Superintendent in 2000, then in 2004, 2008, and 2012, she continues to push for greater early childhood education and ways to improve Arizona’s educational ranking. Her office provides a professional development center that focuses on research-based instructional strategies, including technology integration into the curriculum, systems thinking, new teacher support and early childhood education. She is a registered Republican.
Supervisor Sharon Bronson earned a degree in Business Administration and Accounting with Distinction from the University of Arizona. She was elected to represent District 3, Pima County, in 1996. District 3, a sprawling district of 7,403 square miles, includes all of western Pima County. Bronson is currently Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. She is also a member of the Chairman's Circle for Sun Corridor Inc. and a board member of Visit Tucson. Bronson has served as President of the County Supervisors Association of Arizona and President of the U.S./Mexico Border County Coalition. Bronson was awarded the Women of Influence Award given by Inside Tucson Business to honor her public service. She was instrumental in the development and implementation of Pima County's award winning Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.
Candidate for Pima County Supervisor Marla Closen

Marla Closen is an engineer, former business owner, and Navy combat veteran. She owned a successful construction management business, managing and supervising construction projects for architectural and engineering firms. She also supervised re-construction of a working, hostile airfield while deployed in Iraq, and she previously worked as a project manager for a General Contractor. Her work ethic earned her a promotion to Chief Intelligence Specialist in the Navy Reserve in just six years. Her background has shaped her into a determined individual who has worked in demanding environments where the only solution was mission success. Her technical ability and construction, contracting, and project management expertise would be an invaluable asset as a County Supervisor. She is a registered Republican.
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.
Candidate for Pima County Supervisor Kim DeMarco

Kim DeMarco has been a resident of Pima County for over 28 years. She is a U.S. Marine and a retired Department of Public Safety Police Officer. While working with the Department, she served in the Highway Patrol Division, Undercover Narcotics and the Gang Unit. She also was responsible for creating the first Prescription Drug Unit in Arizona. She has been a business owner and is currently a licensed mortgage professional and branch manager with Sunstreet Mortgage. She was elected in 2014 to and is currently serving on the Board of Directors with the Green Valley/Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce. Her diverse background has given her experience in personnel management, large scale operations logistics, cost-effective budgeting, grant acquisition, contract negotiations, and criminal and civil law.
Sahuarita Town Council Member
Kara Egbert

Kara Egbert was elected a member of the Sahuarita Town Council in 2009. Egbert is a fellow of the Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership, a member of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, president of a women's service organization and involved with the local school district and local food bank. Previously she served as the Director of For Our City Sahuarita, served in the Boy Scout organization, participated as one of the directors of a leadership camp for girls and served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for the Town of Sahuarita. She earned her Bachelor degree from Brigham Young University in Leisure Management Service and was the Manager of Operations for one of the largest fitness centers in the state of Utah. She also helped orchestrate successful special events such as First Night and the Freedom Festival in Provo, Utah. Beyond serving in the community, she stays busy raising her 5 kids who range from a first grader to sophomore in high school.
A law professor, Kirsten Engel teaches environmental law at the University of Arizona. 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 the organization’s Washington, D.C. office. She launched her law teaching career in 1992, a path that earned 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 issues and in December 2016 launched her campaign for the Arizona State House in Legislative District 10. Kirsten is a registered Democrat.
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.
Kristel Ann Foster was elected in November of 2012 to the TUSD Governing Board and is up for re-election in November. 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, teacher professionalism, improve district morale, rebuild community trust, and foster stewardship and strong fiscal performance. She is a registered Democrat.
Candidate for State Representative Courtney Frogge

A fifth generation Arizonan, Courtney Frogge attended Arizona schools, then went on to earn her BA from the University of San Francisco, including a year at Oxford University and a Masters in Violence, Conflict, and Development from the University of London. She has worked on the Steering Committee of the Healthy Families Healthy Workplaces Coalition which built a broad-based team to promote the Earned Sick and Safe Days proposal. Other community involvement includes membership on the Pima County-Tucson Women's Commission, the Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, Arizona Women's Political Caucus, and Las Adelitas Boards. She is committed to expanding the political space for non-traditional candidates, especially young people and women of color.
Representative Sally Ann Gonzales is Yoeme and a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. In 1996, she became the first Native American to be elected to the Arizona Legislature. She holds a BA in Elementary Education from Arizona State University and a Masters in Multicultural Education from the University of Arizona. Gonzales has taught in TUSD and Tempe Elementary Schools, and she served as the Education Director of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. She has also taught at Arizona State University and the University of Arizona. She has served in various manager capacities for higher Indian education. She was elected to the Arizona House in 1996-2000 and elected again in 2009. She serves on several Boards related to education, Indian services, women’s health and prevention of substance abuse. She is a registered Democrat.
Adelita Grijalva is a native Tucsonan, educated through TUSD schools and the University of Arizona. She is Director of Pima County Teen Court, a Juvenile Court diversion program, a program she has worked with for nearly 20 years. She facilitates workshops for families in basic skills, communication, anger management, impulse control, goal setting and resisting peer pressure. Adelita is currently the TUSD School Board President and was recently elected to her 4th term. She has also had a role nationally with the Democratic Party as a Member of the 2008 Democratic Convention Credential Committee, Member of the 2009 Democratic Change Commission and 2010 and 2012 At-Large Member of the Democratic National Committee. She lives in Tucson with her husband Sol and their three children, Adelina, Raúl and Joaquín.
Elaine Hall was born and raised in Tucson. She received her Associate's Degree from Pima Community College. She first became an advocate for public education when her two children entered school in the late 1960s. Her initial involvement was as a classroom volunteer. She was also a member and President of the Sahuarita Parent Teacher Club, even after her children were grown. She actively contacted state Representatives on a regular basis to advocate for children's education. After retiring from the position of principal's secretary at Sahuarita High School, she first ran for the Sahuarita Unified School District Governing Board in 2000 and is currently running for her 5th term. She is a Past President of the Arizona School Board Association's Board of Directors. She encourages young adults to become not only active voters, but also to run for office and work on grassroots initiatives.
Sahuarita Unified School Governing Board Member Kristen Ham

A mother of two boys, Carter, 20, a U of A sophomore, and Payson, 17, a Walden Grove High School Senior. Ham and her husband Garrett have raised their boys in the Sahuarita Unified School District, and she has volunteered in the district from the time the boys were in pre-school as a classroom volunteer, PTA president and Governing Board Member. She holds an Associate of Science degree from Clarendon College, Clarendon, Texas and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arizona. She was first elected to the Sahuarita Governing Board in 2008 and is currently seeking her third term on the board. As a member of the Sahuarita Governing Board, she has been a part of the leadership team overseeing the continued growth of the district and addition of new schools and staff through her eight year term. In addition to being a part of the Sahuarita Governing Board, Ham also currently volunteers for Pima County 4-H the Arizona National Livestock Show.
Corin Hammond received her undergraduate degree in Chemistry with Upper Division Honors on a full-tuition scholarship from Louisiana State University, earned her Master’s Degree in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Arizona as a Science Foundation Arizona Fellow, and is currently finishing her Ph.D. in Soil and Water Science at the University of Arizona as a Karen Wetterhahn Memorial Award recipient. Specializing in soil and water environmental issues facing Arizona, Hammond understands the need for cooperation between legislative, corporate, and research entities to navigate future sustainable demand on our vulnerable natural resources. Prior to her run for public office, Hammond was an Arizona Assurance Mentor, assisting University of Arizona female students achieve their academic pursuits. She is a registered
Clerk of Pima County Superior Court Toni Hellon

Toni Hellon has been the Clerk of Superior Court in Pima County since 2013, and she was elected to a 4-year term in 2014. She had joined the Clerk’s office in early 2007, after serving 6 years as an Arizona State Senator from NW Tucson and Pima County, as Chair of the Senate Education Committee. Hellon has a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Arizona, where she was editor of the Tombstone Epitaph. She has chaired the Pima County Republican Party, was a state officer in Business and Professional Women, and was Chief Deputy Pima County Recorder. She spent years managing campaigns, including three for Congressman Jim Kolbe, Mayor Bob Walkup, Governor Jane Hull, Secretary of State Betsey Bayless, and several local races. Toni is in her 40th year as a Republican Precinct Committeeman in Arizona.
Ana Henderson is a native Tucsonan and daughter of a Danish immigrant. Before earning her degree in graphic design as valedictorian from the Art Center Design College in Tucson, Ana graduated with honors from Flowing Wells, attended Pima College and Northern Arizona University. Upon graduation, she worked in commercial printing before starting her own graphic design business. Ana turned her hobby of playing ice hockey into founding and presiding over the current women’s ice hockey non-profit league in Tucson. Ana continues her service outreach in the community to include partnership with local charities that provide mentoring of our at-risk youth. As a mother of a combat veteran and from a military family, Ana believes in service and support of our US military. She is a Constitutional Republican.
State Representative
Stefanie Mach

Stefanie grew up in a military family and was the first in her family to graduate from a university at University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Stefanie dedicated a year of service to our country with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps after 9/11, including responding to a flood disaster with the American Red Cross, teaching elementary school children, building part of the Appalachian Trail, maintaining a wildlife preserve and helping construct five houses with Habitat for Humanity. She earned a Master of Public Policy degree from Brown University and started a business consulting with non-profit organizations. Elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2012, she sits on the Commerce Committee, the Appropriations Committee, and on the Military and Public Safety Committee. She is proud to continue fighting for access to education and economic growth for all Southern Arizonans.
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 was the first woman in our nation’s history to pilot a fighter plane in combat and command a fighter squadron. During her 26-year military career, she served six deployments to the Middle East and Afghanistan - flying for 325 combat hours in the A-10 - and led oversight of counter-terrorism operations in Africa. She retired in 2010 as a full Colonel.
Betts Putnam-Hidalgo earned a BS degree in Range Management, a Master’s Degree in Latin American Studies and pursued a PhD in Political Science. A more important education came when she helped shepherd two stepsons through high school (Albuquerque) and ultimately her son into Kindergarten in TUSD. She immediately joined the site council and logged huge volunteer hours on behalf of students and teachers, including leading a weekly landscape group in reviving an abandoned 2-acre desert classroom behind the school. At the elementary school and then the intermediate school, she worked with PTA and site council to re-landscape entryways and parking lots, increase curb appeal, and teach Outdoor Inquiry classes. She went on to teach Spanish-speaking moms English and advocated against school closures at TUSD Governing Board meetings, which she has now actively attended for more than five years. Complementing her work as a parent/student advocate at many levels in the District, Betts has also worked directly for TUSD as a monitor and a community liaison.
Councilwoman Shirley Scott was first elected to the City Council in 1995. She has a Master’s degree in Germanic Languages & Literatures from the University of Cincinnati. Scott represents the Ward composed of a large southeast section of Tucson. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Pima Council on Aging, Pima Prevention Partnership and the Advisory Committee for Tucson Clean and Beautiful. She has served on the Budget Advisory Committee and as a Chairperson of the National League of Cities Committee on Community and Economic Development. She is a registered Democrat.
Candidate for U.S. Representative Victoria Steele

Victoria Steele is currently running for the U.S. House of Representatives. She formerly served as the representative for North/Central Tucson and was the Ranking Democrat on the Transportation Committee, and a member of the Health, and Insurance and Retirement Committees. She focused on legislative issues related to Arizona’s economic recovery, job creation, access to health care, and improving education. She is Native American (Seneca/Mingo) and originally grew up in a small town in northwest Pennsylvania. She has a Masters Degree in Counseling and a Bachelor’s Degree in Counseling Psychology, is a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice, and teaches psychology and counseling at the University of Phoenix (at Tucson) and mentors students at Prescott College (Tucson Center). Steele has lived in Arizona for more than 25 years and currently lives in Tucson near her parents and son Nicholas. She is a registered Democrat.
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- American Association of University Women Tucson/Casas Adobes Chapters
- YWCA of Southern Arizona
- Center for Community Dialogue Facilitators
- Sahuarita Unified School District
- Sahuarita and Walden Grove High School Administration and Faculty
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