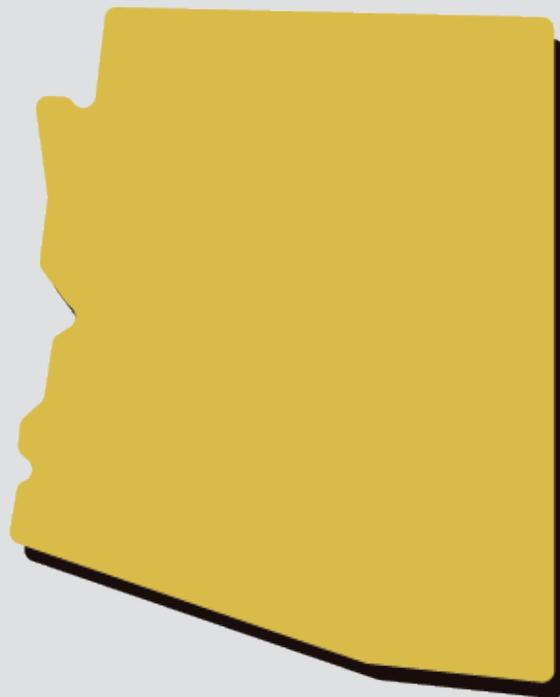




Candidate Debates Work Group Official Report 2023



Dear Commissioners:

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission established a "Candidate Debates Work Group" to assess the current debate process and identify new ideas for the continued implementation of fair and effective candidate debates, as provided for by the Clean Elections Act. The rationale and timing of the Candidate Debates Work Group was to acknowledge and respond to the current needs of Arizona voters and candidates. To ensure a truly inclusive approach to refreshing Arizona's official debates, the Debates Work Group intentionally represents a broad range of public and professional stakeholders.

Clean Elections, the authority on debates in Arizona, has delivered debates for federal, state and legislative candidates for more than 20 years. Debates serve all Arizonans and a successful program requires participation of voters, candidates, campaign consultants, political parties, media partners and more.

As members, we came together to share our experience and expertise in public meetings during March, April and May of 2023. All meeting materials, including video, agendas and minutes, are available for public review at azcleelections.gov.

At the final Debate Work Group meeting held on May 10th, we voted to advance these recommendations to the Commission for its consideration. As the Commission considers this report, we want to emphasize the need to effectively reach all Arizonans in the debate process.

We thank the Commission for convening the Debates Work Group and for facilitating a transparent and inclusive approach to improving Arizona's official debates.

Sincerely,

Candidate Debates Work Group Members

Standards for Successful Debates

Background:

The Debate Work Group kicked off its first meeting discussing the standards for a successful debate from both the voter and candidate perspective. These discussions were held in an effort to build a foundation for the work group's consideration of recommendation and best practices.

What makes a successful debate for a voter?

Key points/Recommendations:

- Advertising is important - why voters should tune in, especially independent voters in primary
- Moderator should have knowledge of issues, especially regional, journalists good, need to control tenor of debate
- advertise one or the specific topics for discussion (such as tune in to hear the LD13 candidates discuss water conservation)
- Create bite size clips of the debates on specific issues
- Debates should be entertaining/informative
- Candidates should have buy in on the topics in advance of the debate
- Bookmark the videos - this will allow voters to jump to certain sections and candidates can create their own clips
- Create and distribute to candidates in advance clear rules on the format
- Moderator should have guidelines on how to keep the discussion progressing and maintain decorum - ensuring the conversation stays on topic as opposed to personal attacks
- Last slide/art card add candidate contact info for more questions
- Important to see candidates interact (candidate v candidate), will have ideological friction but important to stay civil and not personal

What makes a successful debate for a candidate?

Key points/Recommendations:

- Create a toolkit for candidates to:
 - Promote the debate for their constituents: digital creative assets, how to tune in, how to submit questions, what topics will be discussed, placeholders for candidate images and website URL, etc.
- Create one pager on why candidates should participate in the debate, with information on:

- Reach of the debate (how many voters the debate will reach, previous engagement numbers, expected media coverage, etc.). Candidate time is important and valuable, one pager will help them to decide to commit their time to the debate
- Share topics and/or questions in advance
- Keep questions specific to the authority of the office (such as no immigration questions for State Treasurer).
- Provide candidates with clear rules on what to expect during the debate so there are no surprises and they feel like they are getting a fair shake
- Ask candidates what issues to discuss during the debate. These top issues should be used to promote the debate to voters (such as, come hear the LD1 candidates talk about water management strategies, drought planning and preparedness and what this means for rural aquifers).
- Factual/educational resources for voters on the issues

Staff Analysis:

All recommendations/best practices are feasible to implement and/or are currently in place. Several recommendations reinforce the standards and practices currently in use by the Commission and the recommendations serve to strengthen and expand those practices. Recommendations that are not currently in practice, such as soliciting candidate input in the debate questions in advance, can be implemented and would further the likelihood of the candidate participating in the debate.

Format

Background:

In the 2022 election cycle, legislative debates were held as a single event by district, with all eligible candidates from both chambers (Senate and House) and all political parties participating in the debate. Debates are held Monday through Friday, excluding federal, state and religious holidays, and begin at 6:00 p.m.

EXAMPLE: Legislative District 1 PRIMARY

Candidate 1 (Senate-R)

Candidate 2 (Senate-R)

Candidate 3 (Senate-D)

Candidate 4 (Senate-D)

Candidate 5 (House-R)

Candidate 6 (House-R)

Candidate 7 (House-R).

In this scenario, the candidates in the same highlights are true opponents, yet all candidates are interacting and engaging with one another during the debate.

Key points/Recommendations:

- Debates should be structured as follows:
 - Primary debates: by party and by chamber
 - General debates: by chamber
- One event per evening (debates within a debate). For example, Legislative District 13 held on Wednesday at 6pm. Event will begin with Senate candidates debating first, by party, and then transition to the House candidates, by party.
- Clear programming will be made available to the public and candidates once candidates are confirmed to participate in the debate. This way, the public will know when the partisan candidates in each chamber are debating during the event.
- Provide education to independent voters so they understand how to engage with the primary debate process. Specifically, independent voters have the option to watch all candidates debate as they may choose which party ballot they wish to vote in a primary election. CEC to provide education specifically to independent voters on programming/debate schedules so they understand their choices in a primary and how to tune in to the debates.

- The purpose of this recommendation is to ensure candidates are debating their true opponent(s). This will allow voters to better understand who their choices are on the ballot and how the candidates compare.

Staff Analysis:

All recommendations/best practices are feasible to implement and/or are currently in place. Several recommendations reinforce the standards and practices currently in use by the Commission and the recommendations serve to strengthen and expand those practices.

The most significant change to the debate process would be the recommendation to structure debates by party and chamber. This could be implemented by continuing the process of holding a single event per district, but organizing the event in a manner to allow for true opponents to debate. This would require additional planning by staff and moderators, but is feasible to implement and will provide clearer opportunities for voters to see candidates debate their opponents directly.

Rules

Background:

The rules/run of show for the 2022 debates were:

- Moderator introduction
 - 1 minute opening and closing statements
 - 1-2 minutes for responses to voter questions
 - Rebuttals and interruptions allowed
 - Moderator may limit responses for time management purposes
 - Moderator introduces candidates by chamber and party and clarifies to voters who the opponents are (also on slides)
 - Order for opening statements, alpha order by last name by Senate, then House
 - Closing statements in reverse order
- Moderator closing remarks



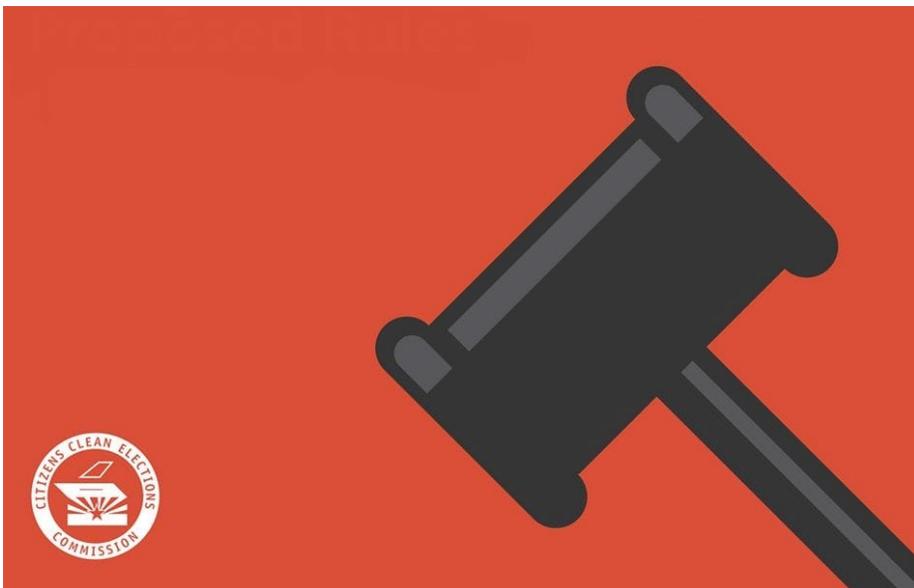
Key points/Recommendations:

- Debates should have time limits that all candidates are aware of before the debate begins. Time limits should be enforced by the moderator, but not in a strict manner. However, the moderator can extend or shorten time to candidates to ensure equity in speaking time.
- Visual and/or audio cues, or other technology, should be considered to notify the candidates of their time.
- Debates should be highly structured. CCEC should provide the structure (such as a run of show) to candidates in advance, including time limits and how moderators will enforce the time limits. Structure should ensure decorum and permit rebuttals and/or interruptions by candidates in a civilized manner.
- The moderator should control interruptions and come back to the candidate for response/rebuttal.
- Topics that will be discussed during the debate should be provided to the candidates and voters in advance, but not the actual questions.

Staff Analysis:

All recommendations/best practices are feasible to implement and/or are currently in place. Several recommendations reinforce the standards and practices currently in use by the Commission and the recommendations serve to strengthen and expand those practices.

The most significant change to the process would be to formally provide the candidates the topics that will be discussed in advance.



Moderators

Background:

In 2018, the Commission began transitioning to utilizing local journalists as opposed to professional speakers as moderators. This transition allowed for the moderators to have an understanding of the issues facing the legislature and state, thus permitting the moderator to better facilitate a more substantive discussion on the issues. The process of securing journalists as moderators continues to allow for a more insightful discussion of the candidates on the top issues voters care about.

In 2022, Clean Elections partnered with journalists from the Arizona Agenda, Arizona Capitol Times and Green Valley News/Sahuarita Sun for legislative debates. Broadcast moderators included Ted Simons, Richard Ruelas, Stacey Barchenger, and Mike Broomhead.

Key points/Recommendations:

- Moderators should be familiar with the local area and issues impacting the jurisdiction and/or office for the debate.
- Consider moderators that can reach the youth population to further engage them in the debate and electoral process.
- A variety of local news journalists, local news podcasters and chamber of commerce executives should be considered as moderators, with an emphasis on securing moderators within that legislative district/region.
- CCEC should recognize media partners often want to have their own employees and talent moderating debate, and the benefits and challenges this may present in ensuring the debate is as accessible as possible.
- The Debates Work Group recognizes the challenge of utilizing news journalists as moderators when they also may be covering the candidates. Additionally, the Debates Work Group recognizes not all stakeholders in the debate process will agree on specific moderators. As such, best practices include:
 - Start moderator recruitment as early as possible and screen for conflicts of interest.
 - Clarify the differences between a news journalist and opinion journalist to candidates and voters.
 - Share the' basic principles of the publication from which the moderator/journalist is associated with.
 - Share the moderator's experience with candidates and voters.
 - Set clear rules and provide training to the moderators on the rules.

- Widen the talent pool of moderators.

Staff Analysis:

All recommendations/best practices are feasible to implement and/or are currently in place. Several recommendations reinforce the standards and practices currently in use by the Commission and the recommendations serve to strengthen and expand those practices.



Voter Education and Outreach

Background:

The Commission provides voter education and outreach across the state to inform voters about the upcoming debates and how to participate. This includes the schedule, what candidates are participating, how to watch, how to submit questions and more. Voter education and outreach on debates also includes educating candidates, community groups and more about the debate process and how to participate.

Key points/Recommendations:

- Debates should always be produced with alternative formats and American Sign Language Interpreters.
- Create toolkits for candidates to promote their debate.
- Utilize the Voter Education Guide to include as much timely information as possible about the debate, including the debate schedule and which candidates are participating.
- Localize the advertising for debates so that cities or local organizations, Chambers of Commerce, businesses, schools, unions and other community groups are reached with the specifics for the debate that impacts them directly.
- Consider using text services to text the link to the debates so voters can easily access the debate on their phones. Texts should be timely and coincide with the start of early voting.
- Education on debates and the schedule should continue through Election Day.
- Education on the debates should include information on the roles and responsibilities of the office. For example, when educating voters on the debate for the Corporation Commission, explain Commissioners are responsible for regulating utilities and rates. This way, voters will have a better understanding of which races impact the issues they care most about.
- CCEC should consider a listening tour and reach out to workers, students, parent teacher organizations, community groups and all voters to raise awareness that debates are available and learn what questions and topics voters would like discussed during debates.
- Consider utilizing radio to educate and air debates in outlying/rural districts.
- Work with community groups that have social media pages to promote the debates in their area.
- Debate Work Group members recognize their role in providing recommendations to improve the debate process, but also recognize their ability to support these

recommendations and raise awareness of the debate process in their respective networks.

Staff Analysis:

All recommendations/best practices are feasible to implement and/or are currently in place. Several recommendations reinforce the standards and practices currently in use by the Commission and the recommendations serve to strengthen and expand those practices.



Gubernatorial and Lieutenant Governor Debates

Background:

At the November 2022 general election, Arizona voters approved Prop 131, adding Lieutenant Governor to the Executive Branch. The Lt. Governor shall be elected on a joint ticket with the Governor on the general election ballot.

Beginning with the 2026 election, not less than 60 days before the general election, the gubernatorial nominees/candidates shall name a lieutenant governor that will appear with their name on the ballot. A single vote cast for a gubernatorial candidate means a single vote cast for their ticket (so both governor and lieutenant governor). In the event the Governor no longer fills the office, the Lt. Governor succeeds to the office.

In the 2022 legislative session, the Legislature passed a bill that requires the Governor to appoint the Lieutenant Governor to serve as the Governor's Chief of Staff or the Director of the Arizona Department of Administration or to fill any position for which the Governor is authorized by law to make an appointment.

Key points/Recommendations:

- As voter approved Proposition 131 calls for a lieutenant governor, Clean Elections should sponsor a debate for this position.
- A lieutenant governor debate will bring awareness to Arizona voters on:
 - the new position and the importance of the role as next in line to succeed the governor
 - The responsibilities of the position as either head of the Arizona Department of Administration, the Governor's Chief of Staff, or in a role appointed by the governor.
- The lieutenant governor debate should focus on the person's qualifications, policies and platforms as next in line to the Governor.
- The lieutenant governor debate should be held separately from the gubernatorial debate and only focus on the lieutenant governor candidates.

Staff Analysis:

All recommendations/best practices are feasible to implement. Adding a Lieutenant Governor debate to the Commission's debate lineup will allow voters to become familiar with this new position and the candidates that seek to fill it.



Broadcast Opportunities & Potential Partnerships

Background:

In 2022, Clean Elections partnered with the Arizona Broadcasters Association (ABA) and the Arizona Newspapers Association (ANA) to offer the US Senate debate to its members. This partnership resulted in tremendous reach as several ABA partners simulcast the debate and several ANA partners picked up the livestream. Additionally, Clean Elections partnered with Arizona PBS and AZTV7 to broadcast statewide debates.

Key points/Recommendations:

- Partnerships with media outlets are critical to ensuring Arizona voters have access to the debate.
- Clean Elections should continue partnerships with the Arizona Broadcasters Association and the Arizona Newspapers Association, along with local, non-traditional, and smaller media outlets to further the reach of debates.
- Clean Elections, the Arizona Broadcasters Association and the Arizona Newspapers Association should consider repeating and improving the model they used in the 2022 US Senate debate.
- Partners should all share the primary goal of bringing debates to voters to educate them on the candidates. It is imperative voters have the opportunity to see the candidates on stage, defending their positions and debating constructively about the policies that will define the future of Arizona and its people. Unified partnerships between Clean Elections and the media will facilitate this discourse, encourage candidate participation and further the integrity of debates.
- Clean Elections should ensure a strong, independent moderator has been selected to facilitate media outlet's ability to partner. This included potentially having multiple moderators in a single debate. Proactive and transparent communication should occur with all potential partners regarding moderators and debate formats.
- Clean Elections should research production partnerships to ensure the necessary resources are available, including but not limited to, studio, cameras, mics, production teams, graphics, etc.. Clean Elections should also research the option of producing debates in house but ultimately consider what partnership will result in maximum reach to voters while meeting the standards for a Clean Elections broadcasted debate.

- Clean Elections should work with media partners to create a single, unified group to present debates to voters. This included presenting debates via broadcast, radio and streaming methods.
- Clean Elections should work with media partners to identify a pool of potential moderators to host debates. This included identifying media partners and talent by electoral districts to provide a more localized debate that connects directly with the community.
- Clean Elections should follow the process used by the Commission on Presidential Debates to offer media outlets the opportunity to present the debate to their audiences, request to host/produce a debate and to provide a moderator.

Staff Analysis:

All recommendations/best practices are feasible to implement and/or are currently in place. Several recommendations reinforce the standards and practices currently in use by the Commission and the recommendations serve to strengthen and expand those practices.

Partnering with the ABA and ANA, as well as other media partners, will provide expanded reach and ensure all of Arizona has access to the debates. Additionally, these partnerships will facilitate the creation of a moderator pool that will allow the Commission to secure talented and knowledgeable moderators. Finally, partnering with ABA and ANA, and other media partners, will further meet the goal of the Commission, in providing voters with professional, informative, and substantive debates.

Staff Conclusion

The recommendations of the Debates Work Group touch on each facet of the debate process, from the mechanics of a given candidate debate to outreach efforts to local communities. Some recommendations will involve changes to the Commission's practice, such as moving from a single debate for a legislative district to a single event featuring candidates for different offices or nominations engaging directly. Others call on us to recommit, as we have, to reach a broad range of voters throughout the state.

The recommendations share a common theme that they are nonpartisan and aimed at promoting participation of candidates and voters.

Staff recommends that the Commission accept the recommendations set forth in this report as an aid to us as we undertake implementation of the 2024 debate series and planning for the 2026 cycle.

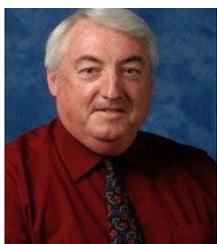


Debate Work Group Directory



Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commissioners

MARK KIMBLE Commissioner



Mark was a longtime journalist in Southern Arizona. After graduating from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Mark worked for the Associated Press and then for the Tucson Citizen newspaper. During a 35-year career at the Citizen, he was a reporter, city editor, assistant managing editor and associate editor-columnist in charge of the editorial page. When the Citizen closed in 2009, Mark went to work as senior press advisor and later as communications director for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. When she resigned in 2012, Mark became communications director for her successor, Congressman Ron Barber. Mark and his wife, Jennifer Boice, live in Tucson. Senate Democratic Leader Katie Hobbs appointed Mark Kimble, an Independent, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission in July 2015.

DAMIEN R. MEYER Chairman



Governor Jan Brewer appointed Damien R. Meyer to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission to serve a term ending January 31, 2019. Damien R. Meyer is an experienced commercial litigation attorney. Damien has extensive experience in representing both individuals and businesses including banks, contractors, landlords, real estate developers, aviation companies, entrepreneurs, and health care companies in all areas of their business including contractual analysis and disputes, collection and payment disputes, commercial tort liability, provisional remedies and negotiation of pre-litigation disputes to avoid formal litigation. He also has extensive experience in representing clients in formal litigation in Arizona State and Federal courts, the Arizona Court of Appeals, in private arbitrations and before several state administrative agencies. Mr. Meyer, his wife and two children currently reside in Phoenix.

AMY B. CHAN Commissioner



Senate Democratic Leader Katie Hobbs appointed Amy B. Chan, a Republican, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission for a 5-year term expiring January 31, 2022. Amy B. Chan was admitted to the State Bar in 1999. Initially she worked as an immigration attorney, helping people obtain immigration benefits through the administrative and immigration court process. In 2001 she began work as a legislative research analyst for the House Judiciary Committee. She was an Administrative Law Judge for the Corporation Commission from 2005-2006 and then returned to the legislature as Policy Advisor and Counsel to the Majority for the State Senate. In 2009 Secretary of State Ken Bennett appointed her State Election Director. She served in that capacity until 2013, when she left to spend more time with her growing family. She and her husband Keith have two sons and live in Phoenix.

GALEN D. PATON Commissioner



Governor Doug Ducey appointed Galen D. Paton, a Republican, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission for a 5-year term expiring January 31, 2021. Commissioner Paton obtained his Master of Arts in Physical Education from the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He has had a long and rewarding career coaching high school and college softball, volleyball and basketball teams in the southwest. In 2005, he led Sabino High School to the Arizona 4A State Championship and a No. 4 ranking in the country. The Arizona Coaches Association along with the National Fastpitch Coaches Association crowned Mr. Paton 2005 coach of the year. Mr. Paton retired from coaching in 2010 and is a current member of the Realty Executives Tucson Elite group. He resides in Tucson with his wife.

Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commissioners

STEVE M. TITLA Commissioner



Senate Democratic Leader Leah Landrum Taylor appointed Steve M. Titla in July 2013. Mr. Titla is a partner in the Titla & Parsi law firm and is admitted to practice law both in Arizona and on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. The firm represents the San Carlos Apache Tribe as special counsel and has also served as legal counsel for the election boards of the San Carlos Apache and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribes. Previously, Mr. Titla was an attorney with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and has served as president of the National Native American Bar Association. In addition to a B.S. and J.D. from Arizona State University, Mr. Titla earned an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix. From 1974-76 Mr. Titla served in the U.S. Marine Corps, leaving with an honorable discharge. He also served in the Arizona National Guard until his honorable discharge in 1980. Mr. Titla's term on the Citizen's Clean Elections Commission expires in January of 2018.

Staff

THOMAS M. COLLINS Executive Director



Tom Collins is Executive Director of the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission. As executive director he is responsible for day-to-day operations for the Commission, a five-member board that administers and enforces Arizona's Citizens Clean Elections Act, including its education and campaign finance programs. Collins was an assistant attorney general for the Arizona Attorney General's office, focused on election law, appeals, and attorney general opinions. He clerked for Justice Scott Bales (2005-06) and the late Justice Michael Ryan (2007-10) of the Arizona Supreme Court.

Email: thomas.collins@azcleaselections.gov

GINA ROBERTS Voter Education Director



Gina Roberts is the Voter Education Director for the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. She administers a robust public education program that strives to encourage participation in the political process from voters across the state. Gina is well versed in election policy and administration, and her experience includes administering elections for the City of Peoria and serving as the Elections Manager for the Secretary of State. Gina graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in Political Science and has been a certified election officer since 2009. She was honored with the “Breakouts 2018” award from the Arizona Capitol Times and is a 2019 Fellow, Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy.

Email: Gina.Roberts@azcleanelections.gov

AVERY D. XOLA Voter Education Manager



Avery D. Xola is the Voter Education Manager for the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. Avery is responsible for educating the citizens of Arizona on the electoral process. Avery graduated with a Political Science degree from Arizona State University in 2018 while interning at The Secretary of States’ Office under Secretary Michele Reagan. In 2021, Avery graduated with a master's degree in Public Administration from The Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions. He is a 2022 Fellow of the Flinn Brown Civic Leadership Academy. Avery has a background in campaign management, is a published writer, and is an Air Force Veteran.

Email: avery.xola@azcleanelections.gov

AZCCEC Debate Work Group Members

Paul Boyer

Greg Burton

Rep. Oscar De Los Santos

Morgan Dick

Renaldo Fowler

Karl Gentles

Nicole Greason

Tara Jackson

Christine Jones

Robert Karp

Commissioner Mark Kimble

Chris Kline

Leah Landrum Taylor

Jodi Liggett

Rodd McLeod

Lee Miller

Anusha Natarajan

Constantin Querard

Bradley Reece

Bob Robson

Paul Senseman

Pinny Sheoran

Lisa Simpson

Leezah Sun

May Tiwamangkala

Jim Torgeson

Kathy Tulemello

B

Paul Boyer Former state senator



Paul Boyer is a homegrown Arizona native, having lived in Glendale and the West Valley for nearly all of his life. He attended Desert Sky Middle School and Deer Valley. He is an honorary firefighter who continues to make sure that any firefighter who gets cancer on the job receives the help they need so they can focus on healing instead of bureaucracy. Paul

has championed policies that help the quality of life for Glendale residents including: more funding for first responders, investing in our K-12 and higher education systems all without increasing taxes, and supporting local business throughout Arizona. He also led the fight to provide justice for victims of sexual abuse. He has received awards for his work protecting cities including multiple “Champion of Cities” by the Arizona League of Cities and Towns. He’s earned the “Legislator of the Year” award from the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Chamber gives out their annual award to the legislator who best advocates for and supports pro-business initiatives.

Email: paul@boyerforglendale.com

B

Greg Burton Arizona Republic



Greg Burton is executive editor of The Arizona Republic and a regional editor for USA TODAY in the West, leading newsrooms in Washington, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Utah, California and Arizona. He began his career at the Lewiston Morning Tribune and then the Moscow-Pullman Daily News, writing about the environment during a period of upheaval over logging and mining, spotted owl protections and wilderness designations for old-growth forests and wild and scenic rivers. In 1997, he joined the Salt Lake Tribune. As a reporter and editor in Utah, he exposed the practice of forced incest and child abuse within polygamous clans and led projects on the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park and the battle over nuclear-waste storage at Yucca Mountain. Before the 2002 Winter Olympics, he uncovered secret gifts to the International Olympic Committee and helped chronicle the emergence of Mitt Romney as a national figure in the aftermath of the Olympic bribery scandal. In Arizona, Burton's newsroom is a two-time Pulitzer finalist and Pulitzer winner in 2018 for The Wall, a landmark multimedia project that explores the border and former President Trump's promise to build "a great wall."

Email: greg.burton@azcentral.com

D

Oscar De Los Santos Representative (Dist.11)



Elected in November 2022, Rep. Oscar De Los Santos represents District 11 in the Arizona House of Representatives. De Los Santos currently sits on the Municipal Oversight and Elections Committee and the Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee. A former public school teacher and anti-hunger advocate, De Los Santos worked at the Arizona Democracy Resource Center, advocating for voting rights and citizen power immediately before taking office. He holds a BA in political science from the University of Southern California, an MA in Christian ethics from Union Theological Seminary, and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar. De Los Santos ran as a Clean Elections candidate in the 2022 election cycle.

Email: odelossantos@azleg.gov

Morgan Dick Comms Director /AZ Democratic Party



Morgan Dick is currently the Communications Director of the Arizona Democratic Party. Previously, she served as the Public Information Officer at the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Kathy Hoffman. She has a wealth of expertise in voting rights policy, and previously was the Deputy Director of the Arizona Advocacy Network and Foundation. Morgan was born and raised in Arizona, is a graduate of Arizona State University and currently resides in Phoenix

Email: mdick@azdem.org

F

Renaldo Fowler Arizona Center for Disability Law



Renaldo is a Senior Staff Advocate with the Arizona Center for Disability Law (ACDL) where he has been employed since 1984. Renaldo joined ACDL following his graduation from Arizona State University and has worked in the disability advocacy field for nearly four decades. He has been a voice in the state regarding racial discrimination, bias discipline practices, as well as the disproportionality, over identification and underserved needs of African American students in special education. Renaldo is also co-founder of the African American Conference on Disabilities (AACD). The AACD is a premier comprehensive disability conference in the United States that addresses the intersection between race and disability. In January 2014, Renaldo was promoted to Coordinator of the, Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access program (PAVA). The purpose of PAVA, is to ensure persons with disabilities have an opportunity to vote privately and independently and have full participation in the electoral process, in registering to vote, casting a vote and accessing polling places. Renaldo has worked with Arizona's Elections officials and advocates from the disability community to improve access to the electoral process for Arizonans with disabilities.

Email: rfowler@azdisabilitylaw.org



Karl Gentles The Gentles Agency / CBCF



Karl Gentles is a partner in The Gentles Agency, a public relations firm specializing in strategic communications and government relations. Gentles leads the agency's strategic direction for its clients that span multiple industries. Prior to forming the agency, Gentles served in executive leadership positions at USAA, Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC), Bank One, and began his career as a staff assistant for U.S. Senator John McCain. In addition to his agency work, Gentles is the executive director of Back to School Clothing Drive, a 51-year old nonprofit that provides 25,000 elementary school students attending 260+ schools with new school uniforms, outfits and supplies. A proud two-time Sun Devil, Gentles earned his masters of business administration and bachelors of science in organizational communication from Arizona State University. Current community involvement includes the Arizona Corporation Commission, Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee; Arizona Venture Development Corporation; Morrison Institute for Public Policy; Arizona Community Foundation, Black Philanthropy Initiative; amongst others. Karl is married to Carla Wright Gentles, a 29-year U.S. Army Reserves (Ret.), partner in the Agency, and PhD candidate at Grand Canyon University where she also serves as an adjunct professor

Email: karl@karlgentlespr.com

J

Tara Jackson President/Arizona Town Hall



Tara Jackson has served as president of Arizona Town Hall since July of 2006. In this role, she oversees all aspects of managing a statewide non-profit with a mission of bringing diverse and often opposing parties together to solve the most complex and challenging issues facing the state.

Prior to joining the staff of Arizona Town Hall, Tara practiced commercial litigation for 16 years with a Phoenix-based law firm. She has vast experience in helping communities to address issues that intersect with policy and government systems. In addition to her law practice, Tara taught as an adjunct professor for ASU's Law School and has been a visiting lecturer for ASU and the University of Arizona. She has served in various leadership and advisor roles for state and federal bar associations, court and government systems, non-profits, and business and educational organizations. Both her undergraduate degree in Biology and law degree are from Indiana University. She considers herself a lifelong learner and regularly takes classes in different fields. She also is a certified yoga and mindfulness teacher. Tara and her husband have five grown children.

Email: tarajackson@aztownhall.org

J

Christine Jones Beus Gilbert McGroder PLLC

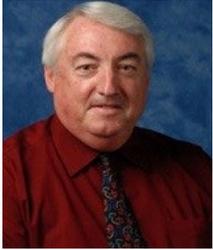


Christine Jones is a Member of Beus Gilbert McGroder, a premier boutique law firm in Phoenix. Ms. Jones is the former EVP, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for the Go Daddy Group of Companies. During her time there, she fought to make the internet safer for users, particularly children. Before entering private practice, Ms. Jones worked for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. She spent time in a variety of departments, including stints in Compton, the Special Investigations Division, and the Hard Core Gang Division. Ms. Jones has been a guest lecturer at a variety of law schools, graduate business schools, colleges and universities, and high schools, including Stanford University, The University of Virginia, Arizona State University, Santa Clara University, and many others. She is a published author and served as Editor-In-Chief of the Whittier Law Review. In addition, Ms. Jones stays involved in many volunteer and charitable projects and has been an occasional candidate for political office. A CPA, she serves on the board of directors for multiple for-profit and non-profit organizations. She is married to a retired Air Force Officer who now teaches in the Chandler Unified School District. They live in the Phoenix area.

Email: cjones@beusgilbert.com

K

Mark Kimble Chairman /Debate Work Group



Mark was a longtime journalist in Southern Arizona. After graduating from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Mark worked for the Associated Press and then for the Tucson Citizen newspaper. During a 35-year career at the Citizen, he was a reporter, city editor, assistant managing editor and associate editor-columnist in charge of the editorial page. When the Citizen closed in 2009, Mark went to work as senior press advisor and later as communications director for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. When she resigned in 2012, Mark became communications director for her successor, Congressman Ron Barber. Mark and his wife, Jennifer Boice, live in Tucson. Senate Democratic Leader Katie Hobbs appointed Mark Kimble, an Independent, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission in July 2015.

Email: markkimbleaz@gmail.com

Chris Kline CEO/Arizona Broadcasters Association



Chris Kline is the President and CEO of the Arizona Broadcasters Association. In the role, he leads all shared services, training programs, and advocacy for 200 radio and TV stations in Arizona with a focus on future-proofing local media for the digital future. Chris previously spent 15 years working in Arizona local media at radio, TV and print operations plus at CNN in Washington, DC. Chris serves on boards at Arizona State's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, University of Arizona's Journalism School, Arizona's emergency communications committee and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Email: chris@azbroadcasters.org

L

Leah Landrum Taylor Dept. of Economic Security



Leah Landrum Taylor is currently serving as an Assistant Director in the Department of Economic Security (DES) Director's Office and oversees the Offices of Community Engagement, Tribal Relations, Ombudsman's Office, and Volunteer Engagement Center. Before joining DES, Senator Landrum Taylor worked for the Arizona Department of Education on the State Superintendent's Executive Team where she served as the Associate Superintendent for the Special Projects Division. Leah served as an elected Official for the Arizona State Senate and House of Representatives in District 27 for 16 years. She is an Alumna of the American Council of Young Political Leaders as well as an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow of Emerging Political Leaders in America. She was voted as one of the 2010 World of the Future Award Honorees by the Girl Scouts Arizona. She attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University through the Fannie Mae Foundation. She is currently President of the Phoenix Chapter of Jack and Jill. She is also a Board of Trustee member for Brophy College Preparatory, Tanner Properties, ChildHelp Inc and Opportunities Industrialization Center. Senator Landrum Taylor is also the Founder of the African American Commission and African American Legislative Day Conference.

Email: LLandrumTaylor@azdes.gov

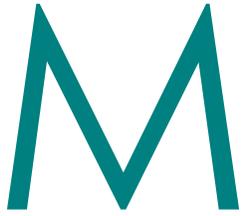
L

Jodi Liggett AZ Center for Women's Advancement



Jodi Liggett is a proud native Arizonan and fierce women's advocate. A public policy expert, she has worked in both Republican and Democratic administrations, as well as the nonprofit and private sectors. Jodi began her career at the Arizona State House of Representatives as Republican Committee Staff but soon moved on to the Governor's Office of Jane Dee Hull as her Policy Adviser for Human Services for the duration of Hull's administration. After lobbying for private companies, she settled at the Arizona Foundation for Women moving from Director of Policy to CEO. After 7 years at AFW, she joined Phoenix city government as Mayor Greg Stanton's senior policy advisor. She spent 6 years at Planned Parenthood ending as the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Advocates AZ- the organizations electoral arm, and as Vice President of External Affairs for the medical side of the organization. Most recently Jodi was Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego's Deputy Chief of Staff. She is now incubating a women's issues think tank and advocacy group- the Arizona Center for Women's Advancement (ACWA). Jodi holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a law degree, both from ASU.

Email: jodi.robbyns.liggett@gmail.com

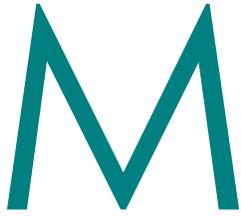


Rodd McLeod Author/AZ Mirror



Rodd McLeod is a political strategist who cut his teeth on competitive races in New York, Iowa and Arizona, before joining the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in 2007, where he helped to elect the majority that passed the Affordable Care Act. A native New Yorker who has called Arizona home since 2010, he has engineered wins in tough primaries in Tucson, Phoenix, the Bronx and Manhattan, he led Hillary Clinton's win in Arizona's 2016 presidential primary. He is a longtime adviser to former Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, serving as her campaign manager and running her district offices after she survived an assassination attempt in 2011. Since then, he has helped steer the winning campaigns of Arizona Congress members Ron Barber, Kyrsten Sinema, Ann Kirkpatrick, Tom O'Halleran, and Senator Mark Kelly. Rodd, a drummer and music lover, came to politics after working at Rolling Stone, XXL and other music magazines.

Email: rodd.mcleod@gmail.com



Lee Miller Former Deputy Secretary of State



Lee practices law, representing a wide variety of clients whose interests intersect with Arizona state and local government. His practice includes traditional lobbying as well as representing individuals and companies in administrative matters. A unique aspect of his practice is his representation of the Arizona Republican Party as its General Counsel. His practice also includes working with the Citizens Clean Elections Commission, having represented many clients on Commission complaints. Lee Miller previously served as the Deputy Secretary of State for the State of Arizona. This made him the COO for the Department of State; a wide-ranging enterprise with more than 160 employees and a budget of more than \$7 million dollars. Lee's professional career includes a unique blend of political, legal and business experience. He served in Washington as a legislative aide to Congressman Eldon Rudd and Jim Kolbe. He was an attorney for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Investigating financial fraud in the banking and savings and loan industries. He then joined Fleet Bank in Boston, MA. As one of the State's few experts in campaign finance he has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal, Arizona Capitol Times, the Arizona Republic, the East Valley Tribune and appeared on many of the area's television and radio outlets, including National Public Radio and Horizon.

Email: lee@leemillerlaw.com

N

Anusha Natarajan ASU SCETL



Anusha Natarajan is a senior at Arizona State University, studying sociology, history, applied quantitative science, and political science with a minor in Spanish and certificates in political economy and international studies. She is currently serving as the civic-engagement coalition chair and an Andrew Goodman fellow at her university, advancing voter education. Passionate for culture and education, Anusha helped create an educational non-profit called Culture Talk, which provides resources for teachers and schools to use to diversify their curriculum in social studies. In the future, Anusha wants to earn a PhD to study and research election misinformation and its impact on democracy using quantitative and qualitative methods. In her free time, Anusha likes to play piano, spend time outdoors, and read.

Email: anatar12@asu.edu



Constantin Querard Founder/Grassroots Partners, LLC



Constantin Querard is the founder of Grassroots Partners, LLC, which does campaign consulting and public affairs work. Constantin has been active in politics for decades, working on a variety of campaigns for pro-family candidates and causes from the school board level to President of the United States. For much of the last decade, roughly half of the Republicans in the Arizona Legislature have been Grassroots clients. In 2013, Campaigns & Elections magazine named him one of Arizona's 5 GOP Influencers, and in 2015 he was named Best Campaign Consultant by the Arizona Capitol Times. In 2016, Ted Cruz tapped him to run his Arizona campaign and delegate operations. Constantin is a member of the Board of Directors of Balanced Budget Now (Center for State-led National Debt Solutions), which is leading the charge to pass a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and save America from financial ruin. Constantin also founded the Arizona Family Project, an Arizona non-profit focused on involving Arizona's families in the public policy process, and he served as the organization's Executive Director for years. He has been a member of the National Association of Republican Campaign Professionals and Mensa.

Email: cq@grassrootspartners.com

R

Bob Robson Former AZ Representative



Bob Robson is a long-time civic leader, business owner, and educator. His leadership experience includes serving eight years on the Chandler City Council, where his colleagues elected him vice mayor. He served the Chandler, Tempe, and Phoenix area for more than a decade in the State House of Representatives, where he was Speaker Pro Tempore and Rules Chairman. In

those leadership roles he developed a reputation as a lawmaker who would work with all stakeholders and parties and is highly respected for his knowledge of the legislative and policy process. Robson has served on numerous civic organizations ranging from Kiwanis and the Boys and Girls Club, to chairing the Arizona Auto Theft Authority and the Maricopa County Sports Commission. He was a professor of practice in ASU's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and a small business owner in the East Valley before his retirement.

Email: robson4az@yahoo.com



Paul Senseman Policy Development Group



Paul and his wife, PDG’s Kathy Senseman, made history as the first people ever voted by professional colleagues to win “Best of the Capitol” awards individually and then again as a single unit. Paul’s distinguished resume and affable personality give him a broad base of strong relationships and respected credibility across Arizona, and his keen knowledge of a wide range of public policy, strategic acumen, and familiarity with critical media messaging maximize results for our clients. In addition to lobbying elected officials and department policymakers at state and local governments, Paul has significant experience in a variety of regulatory matters and crisis communications, as well as grassroots and grass-roots strategy development. A fourth-generation resident of Peoria, Paul received a Bachelor of Science from Arizona State University. He began his professional political career in the Phoenix office of U.S. Senator John McCain and went on to serve in a variety of positions on the Arizona legislative leadership staff, reporting to three House Speakers and ultimately becoming Chief of Staff of the Arizona House of Representatives. Paul rejoined PDG in January 2011 after serving two years as Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications for Arizona Governor Janice K. Brewer.

Email: psenseman@policydevelopmentgroup.com

S

Pinny Sheoran President/League of Women Voters



Pinny's commitment to the League has, quite literally, spanned generations of her life. She immigrated from India to the US in 1974 to pursue her graduate education at the University of Cincinnati. As a graduate student there, her dedication to the ideals of democracy was recognized by her Faculty mentor and she was urged to join the League as a student member. During

that 2 year period her volunteer work included registering voters and helping at League events. Thus was her initiation into understanding the importance of voting rights in this country, and the League's role in that struggle/movement. As a foreign student, her experience in the League was critical for the development of her understanding of American Democracy, the Suffragette movement and the nexus of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights movement. In 2016, she decided she could no longer sit on the sidelines and became a very active League member. Pinny has been a member of the League since 2016. Currently, she serves as the League representative on the Election Protection Arizona (EPAZ) coalition led by the Lawyers committee and the Leadership Conference local chapter All Voting is Local.

Email: pinny.sheoran@gmail.com

S

Lisa Simpson Exec. Director, AZ Newspapers Assoc.



Simpson joined the ANA in April of 2021 where she is proud to help her industry innovate and remain a vital part of democracy and a trusted source of information for future generations. Over the last 20+ years, she has held positions with many of the newspapers in the valley including Arizona Capitol Times, The Arizona Republic, The East Valley Tribune, and La Voz Publishing. Simpson studied engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. Family needs led her to an early career in automotive, product design, and the telecom industries. She moved with her husband and son to Arizona in 1995 and began her career in the newspaper industry. They chose Arizona because it fit with the outdoor activities they love. She is also an avid sports fan and loves the local teams.

Email: L.Simpson@ananeews.com

Leezah Sun Representative Dist. 22



Leezah Sun (Democratic Party) is a member of the Arizona House of Representatives, representing District 22. She assumed office on January 9, 2023. Her current term ends on January 13, 2025. Leezah earned a bachelor's degree from Drexel University. Sun's career experience includes working as a research specialist with Drexel University and as an activist.

Email: lsun@azleg.gov

T



May Tiwamangkala is currently the Democracy Defender Director of Arizona Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander for Equity. She is also a board member for two black-led non profits; The Tadini House and Desert Star Family Planning. Prior to her current job, May was a criminal justice organizer at Puente Human Rights Movement and worked at the Department of Economic Security. Through listening to stories from community members who were formerly incarcerated, from families experiencing financial dilemmas, and from her own experience of incarceration, May dedicates her life addressing the issues for those disenfranchised and advocates for policy and change that uplifts the community as a whole. May believes that cross-cultural collaboration is the key for systemic change in order to fix the issues that disparage marginalized communities.

Email: may@aanhpi.org

Jim Torgeson Councilman/ Town of Gilbert



Jim Torgeson is a member of the Gilbert City Council in Arizona. He assumed office on January 10, 2023. His current term ends on January 12, 2027. Torgeson ran for election to the Gilbert City Council in Arizona. He won in the primary on August 2, 2022. He has been active as a citizen and local small business owner. Torgeson is a member of the Rotary Club, President of the Legacy at Gilbert Commons HOA, board member of the Free Enterprise Committee (SBA), former board member Tempe-Apache Blvd Redevelopment Committee, and former Director Tempe Apache Blvd Businessman’s Association. He also served 2 terms as Chairman of the Heritage District Redevelopment Commission.

Email: Jim.torgeson@gilbertaz.gov

T



Kathy Tulemello is the editor in charge of coverage of local news and politics. That includes coverage of all levels of government (and all manner of politicians), along with topics such as education, energy, housing, health care, immigration and Arizona news outside the Phoenix metro area. She has been a journalist at The Republic since 1995.

Email: kathy.tulumello@arizonarepublic.com

Public Voting Members

Nicole Greason Barrett, The Honors College at ASU



Nicole Greason is in her 11th year as the director of marketing and public relations for Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University. Previously, Nicole was the marketing administrator for Fennemore Craig, a business law firm based in Phoenix, AZ. She has worked in communications, marketing and PR for many years in the areas of K-12 education, higher education and health care for organizations including the Tempe Union High School District, Kyrene Elementary School District, Maricopa County Community College District, Maricopa County Department of Public Health and The University of Texas at El Paso. She also worked as a reporter in features, news and business and as assistant business editor at the Tucson Citizen. Nicole earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Arizona, a master's degree in English from Northern Arizona University and a certificate in social impact branding from Georgetown University. She is the past-president and current vice president of the Arizona Latino Media Association and a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She is on the board of the Society of Professional Journalists Valley of the Sun (Phoenix) Chapter and a member of the Public Relations Society of America.

Email: greasonnicole@yahoo.com

Robert Karp No title or organization



Candidate in 2018 and 2020 for state legislature in LD14 (now LD19)

Email: rwkarp@gmail.com

Bradley Reece Exec. Director / Engaged Arizona



Bradley Reece is the Executive Director of Engaged Arizona, a 501(c)(3) non-profit which promotes voter registration and education throughout the state. He also serves as the Finance Director for Keep Arizona Blue Student Coalition, where he raises funds to sustain the organization and ensures compliance with applicable committee finance laws. As a 2022 Flinn Scholar,

Bradley currently studies political science and psychology with a minor in public health at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He is a recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award (2021) and was a Prudential Spirit of Community state awardee (2021). In his free time, Bradley is an avid reader, musician, activist, and traveler.

Email: breece@engagedaz.org



Mailing Address:

1802 W. Jackson St. #129
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Physical Address:

1110 W. Washington St., Suite 250
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Main Phone: 602-364-3477

Toll-Free: 877-631-8891

Fax: 602-364-3487

Email: ccec@azcleelections.gov



www.azcleelections.gov

