



A research and advocacy association, supporting efficient, responsive county government in Arizona.

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New Supervisors Spotlight: Supervisor Bruce Bracker, Santa Cruz County

With the county elections that occurred across Arizona in 2016, 18 new supervisors were elected to office. With the large number of new faces added to the roster of county supervisors, we would like to take the opportunity each week to introduce one of them, in alphabetical order by county, then district number.

Name: Supervisor Bruce Bracker

County: Santa Cruz County

District: 3

Birthdate: August 20

Family: Supervisor Bracker and his partner have two children, and recently became first time grandparents.



Occupation (other than supervisor): Supervisor Bracker has a unique background having worked in the culinary industry, both the United States and Europe, for over seven years. Since then, he has become partner and executive of his family owned and operated retail business, which was established by his grandparents in 1924, and continues to thrive today.

Length of time in Arizona: He was born and raised in Nogales, Arizona and has lived with his family in Tubac for the last 26 years.

Civic organization involvement: Supervisor Bracker has always enjoyed working with people, giving back to and helping improve his community. This interest began as a young boy attending Lion's Club meetings with his father. Since then, he has been a member of numerous civic organizations including, but not limited to, the Greater Santa Cruz County Port Authority as a board member since 2008 and Chairman of the Board from 2013-2015. Supervisor Bracker also serves on the board of the Santa Cruz County Community Foundation, and was founding board member and president of the Nogales Community Development Corporation.

Inspiration to run for county supervisor: For Supervisor Bracker, helping to develop greater sustainable economic expansion throughout Santa Cruz County was a main motivator to run for supervisor. With his extensive knowledge and experience as a local business owner, and the relationships he has developed over the years not only in Santa Cruz County but also at the state and federal level, Supervisor Bracker wanted to utilize his expertise to benefit the community on a full-time basis. His main goals are to help improve infrastructure throughout the county, increase community spaces, as well as attract new industries and jobs into the region to help cultivate the unique assets that can be found all across Santa Cruz County.

What are you currently reading?: Due to his hectic schedule as county supervisor, he does not often have time to read for pleasure, but makes sure to keep up on daily happenings, both on a local and national level, by reading a variety of newspapers and magazines each day.

Favorite place in Santa Cruz County: Supervisor Bracker loves the county he lives in, and has found that the amazing diversity provides a wide variety of locations and activities to enjoy. From great communities like Tubac and Patagonia, to the international flavor of Nogales, and the opportunities to explore the beautiful nature preserves like Sonoita Creek, Madera Canyon, and more, Santa Cruz County has a little something for everyone.

Most admired Arizona political figure: For Supervisor Bracker, there are a number of Arizona political figures that he admires. The most important of these being his father, who served on the Nogales City Council for five terms, and was always dedicated to giving back and helping to make the community a better place. In addition to his father, Supervisor Bracker also noted his admiration for Rose Mofford, the first female to serve as Arizona governor, stating that she worked hard to make her job not about politics but about doing what was best for the state. Supervisor Bracker also mentioned former Arizona governor Raúl Héctor Castro as another important figure he respected because of his perseverance and ability to overcome obstacles both personally and professionally.

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Supervisor Martin Joins NACo D.C. Fly-In on Infrastructure



This week Gila County Supervisor and CSA President, Tommie Cline Martin joined her National Association of Counties (NACo) Executive Committee colleagues from across the country for a NACo Leadership Fly-In in Washington, D.C.

Supervisor Martin met with members of Congress and their staff, federal agency heads and the national media to engage on issues important to the nation's county governments, including health care, tax reform, budget and appropriations issues, and

infrastructure.

The NACo Executive Committee is comprised of 8 elected officials: president, first vice-president, second vice-president and immediate past president, and four regional representatives elected by regional caucuses. The officers are responsible for the property, funds, and business affairs of the association in the absence of the Board of Directors, and exercise all powers and authority granted by the Board of Directors.

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Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Tap Toma to Replace Lovas

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors announced on Wednesday that Benjamin Toma (*pictured third from left*) was appointed to fill the District 22 House seat vacated by Phil Lovas (R-Peoria).

Mr. Lovas resigned from the Arizona House of Representatives to take a position as the Small Business Administration's advocate for the West. Lovas served in the House of Representatives from February 2012 until his recent appointment.

Benjamin Toma served on the Peoria City Council and is a realtor. He was unanimously appointed by the Maricopa Board of Supervisors to represent District 22. He was sworn in on Wednesday and began participating in votes on the House floor.



Maricopa Supervisors cited Toma's budget knowledge and his ability to quickly adapt to and contribute to the Legislature as reasons for selecting him. Meanwhile House Speaker J.D. Mesnard told Toma to get ready to begin "drinking from a fire hose" in order to quickly catch up with budget negotiations and other business currently going on at the Capitol.

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CSA Staff Justin West Receives Phi Alpha Alpha Award

This week, CSA Research Analyst, Justin West, was awarded membership in Phi Alpha Alpha. Justin received this honor due to his high performance as a graduate student in the Arizona State University School of Public Affairs.

The purpose of Phi Alpha Alpha is to encourage and recognize outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in public affairs and administration. Its objective is to advance both education and practice of the art and science of public affairs and public administration.

CSA extends our congratulations to Justin for this well-deserved honor.



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JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

Monthly Fiscal Highlights for March 2017 were published last week by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) announcing General Fund revenues of \$562.6 million for the month, an increase of (19.1)% over March 2016. JLBC explained that budgeted one-time fund transfers created most of the perceived decline. Individual Income Tax was up 59.3% over the same month last year, due primarily to an increase in withholding, while Sales Tax declined against the same month in the prior year for the first time since January 2015, down (0.1)%. The continued decline in Corporate Income Tax is mostly expected because of multi-year statutory rate decreases; but, unexpectedly is also due to a decline in corporate profits. General Fund revenues are now \$6.80 billion year-to-date (YTD), (0.2)% under baseline forecast.

Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) collections were \$106.1 million for the month, a \$39.5 million increase compared to March 2016. YTD collections are up 7.9% over prior year, a \$70.6 million surplus.

March General Fund spending totaled \$658.5 million with YTD spending of \$7.58 billion. This represents a \$71.5 million increase compared with March 2016 and an \$86.7 million YTD increase from FY2016.

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Session Snapshot

Smoke in Our Hair

BY OFELIA ZEPEDA

The scent of burning wood holds the strongest memory.

Mesquite, cedar, piñon, juniper, all are distinct.

Mesquite is dry desert air and mild winter.

Cedar and piñon are colder places.

Winter air in our hair is pulled away, and scent of smoke settles in its place.

We walk around the rest of the day with the aroma resting on our shoulders.

The sweet smell holds the strongest memory.

We stand around the fire.

The sound of the crackle of wood and spark is ephemeral.

Smoke, like memories, permeates our hair, our clothing, our layers of skin.

The smoke travels deep to the seat of memory.

We walk away from the fire; no matter how far we walk, we carry this scent with us.

New York City, France, Germany—
we catch the scent of burning wood;
we are brought home.

Today marks the 110th day of the 53rd Legislative Session. Of the 1,057 bills introduced this year, the legislature has already passed 284 bills and Governor Ducey has signed 211 of them and vetoed four.

A few highlights that occurred this week:

- CSA's [HB 2065 waste tire disposal; continuation](#) (Coleman) was signed into law by Governor Ducey and awaits a chapter number.
- Navajo County's [SB1316 jail districts; maintenance of effort](#) (S. Allen) was signed into law by Governor Ducey and awaits a chapter number.
- The Arizona Department of Transportation legislation, [SB 1025 public entities; absolute immunity; defenses](#) (Borges) that CSA supports passed Senate Final Read 28-0, and awaits Governor Ducey's signature.

For more information on legislative deadlines, please [click here](#).

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National Poetry Month: Ofelia Zepeda ~Poet, Professor, & Preservationist

To cap off the final week of National Poetry Month, our featured author is Ofelia Zepeda, a Tohono O'odham Nation member, poet, professor, researcher, and cultural conservator.

Dr. Zepeda grew up in Stanfield, Arizona and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in linguistics from the University



of Arizona. She is the author and editor of a number of poetry collections, research and publication articles, and wrote the only pedagogical textbook on the Tohono O'odham language, *A Papago Grammar*, which was written as part of a language course she developed.

Dr. Zepeda is well known for poetry written both in English and her native O'odham language. Her compositions embrace topics such as linguistics, O'odham traditions, the natural world, and the experience of contemporary O'odham life. Her work is influenced by traditional Papago themes and songs, and serves as a written melding of the relationship between her professional linguistic study of local languages and the communities where they are spoken, and her commitment to the development of a literary tradition in Native American language.

Dr. Zepeda currently works as Regents' Professor and Head of American Indian Studies at the University of Arizona where she teaches regular courses on the Tohono O'odham language. She has also been recognized with multiple awards for her writing, cultural safeguarding, and social engagement. In 1996 she received the Tanner Award for significant contributions to the American Indian Community, and in 1999 she was honored with a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship for her contributions as a poet, linguist, and cultural preservationist. Most recently, she served as Tucson's Poet Laureate, and was presented with the Museum of Contemporary Art's (MOCA) Local Genius Award which "honors those visionary and innovative Tucsonans whose activities have a global impact, and whose talents have been internationally recognized."

For more information about Ofelia Zepeda or to read more of her works, you can visit the [Poetry Foundation](#) website.

Sources: [Poetry Foundation](#); [The University of Arizona](#); [Wikimedia](#)

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NACo 2017 Aspire Awards Opportunity

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has launched its [2017 Aspire Awards: Creating Opportunities for County Employee Retirement Readiness](#). It honors and recognizes counties for innovative solutions and for promoting employee retirement savings.



To submit an application, please [click here](#). Submissions are due May 26, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

For additional information, please [click here](#).

Winners will be notified around the week of June 12, 2017, and the awards will be presented during the NACo Annual Conference in July.

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County Supervisors Association of Arizona

1905 W. Washington, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85009

www.countysupervisors.org

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