



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

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New Supervisors Spotlight: Supervisor Bill Gates, Maricopa 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 Bill Gates

County: Maricopa County

District: 3

Birthdate: August 4



Education: Supervisor Gates attended Drake University where he earned his bachelor's degree in political science and economics. In 1996, he graduated with his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Occupation (other than supervisor): In addition to his current position with the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Gates has spent the last 16 years as Associate General Counsel & Director of Distribution for PING, a Phoenix-based golf equipment manufacturer.

Family: Supervisor Gates is married to his wife, Pam Gates, and has two lovely daughters who are ages 13 and 15.

Length of time in Arizona: Though not an Arizona native, Supervisor Gates moved here as a teenager and attended Deer Valley High School in Glendale. He noted that the four years he spent there was the longest time he had ever lived in one place, having moved around a lot with his family when he was younger. His interest in helping the community and a feeling of familiarity were some of the main motivations that brought him back to Arizona after attending college and law school, and has kept him here ever since.

Civic organization involvement: Prior to being elected county supervisor, he served on the Phoenix City Council representing District 3 from June 2009 through May 2016, and also served as Vice Mayor of Phoenix from January 2013 to February 2014. In addition, Supervisor Gates is currently a board member for the Foundation for Blind Children, The Phoenix Symphony, and Disabled Sports USA. He has chaired the Finance, Efficiency, & Sustainability subcommittee in addition to participating on a number of additional subcommittees, and has served in a variety of capacities with nonprofit and community organizations.

Best piece of advice received: Supervisor Gates feels that he has been fortunate to have received a lot of great advice over the years. Early on during his tenure as city councilman, there was one key piece of advice he received that he tries to follow during his career as a public servant. That advice was to not be afraid of voting in a way that might upset constituents who are present during a vote. As an elected official, your job is to be thinking about the greater good and the wide variety of people whom you represent, and not just the few, and perhaps more vocal, citizens that might be sitting in the room.

Inspiration to run for county supervisor: Having enjoyed the time he spent serving as city councilman, Supervisor Gates realized that many of the issues he was working on were regional and local issues such as air quality and economic development. Supervisor Gates is very passionate about the regional perspective in local government and felt that serving as a county supervisor would be a unique opportunity to continue representing and supporting his District 3 county constituents. He hopes to continue his work of expanding efficiency and innovation in regulatory and personnel reform, sustain the push for a faster integration of technology at the local government level, and continue to stay connected to the communities and neighborhoods he serves.

Favorite place in Maricopa County: Apart from home being his favorite place to be, Supervisor Gates loves the mountain preserves of Maricopa County and all that they have to offer. He greatly enjoys any opportunity he has to go hiking, biking, or just being active in general, and finds it relaxing to be able to lose himself in the beautiful mountains and nature that can be found throughout the county.

Most admired Arizona political figure: For Supervisor Gates, there are many Arizona political figures that he respects, but ultimately chose former Senator John Kyl as someone whom he has admired the most. When asked about his choice, Supervisor Gates explained that he felt Senator Kyl really set the gold standard as a politician in Arizona. He was a fiscal conservative, a very principled man and politician, and was not one to try and make headlines or become famous in any way. Supervisor Gates feels that Senator Kyl was “a work horse, not a show horse,” worked hard toward creating the best public policies possible, and although it is not considered a “sexy” issue, was a leader in water policy for decades.

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Coconino County Supervisor Archuleta Works on NACo Healthy County Initiatives

This week Coconino County Supervisor Liz Archuleta participated in a roundtable discussion on the National Association of Counties (NACo) Healthy Counties Initiative in Hartford, Connecticut.

Twelve county officials from across the country were invited to participate in the two day discussion on the social determinants of health and what counties can do to promote healthy communities.

NACo's Healthy Counties Initiative creates and sustains healthy counties by collaborating and sharing innovative approaches to pressing health issues. The Initiative focuses on enhancing public-private partnerships in local health delivery, improving individual and community health, and

helping counties effectively implement the Affordable Care Act.

For more information on the Initiative, please [click here](#).

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National County Government Month

National County Government Month (NCGM), held each April, is an annual celebration of county government. This year, the theme is consistent with the National Association of Counties' (NACo) President Bryan Desloge's initiative, "Brilliant Ideas at Work," which encourages counties, parishes, and boroughs to feature their most innovative and successful programs — those truly making a difference in residents' lives.

Since 1991, NACo has encouraged counties to highlight effective programs, and raise public awareness and understanding about the various services provided to the community. There are a number of ways that counties can celebrate and promote themselves throughout the month of April such as:

- Showcasing various departments and services provided through open houses and fun learning experiences for the whole family;
- Offering public tours of county facilities;
- Holding public outreach events and activities;
- Featuring your county's workforce development and employment services by holding a county job fair;
- Encouraging residents to volunteer with local organizations;
- And so much more!



For more great ideas and information on how your county can celebrate, check out this great [toolkit](#) provided by NACo.

Sources: [NACo](#); [National County Government Month](#)

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Session Snapshot

Today marks the 89th day of the 53rd Legislative Session.

This was the first week without committee hearings, so time was spent in caucus, Rules hearings and voting on the floor in both chambers. Of the 1,057 bills introduced this year, the legislature has already passed 154 bills, and Governor Ducey has signed 140 of them, but vetoed three. At this point, in addition to pushing the remaining bills through the process, the legislature still needs to pass a state budget before they can adjourn the session sine die and the clock is ticking.

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

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April National Poetry Month

February saw celebrations of Black History Month, March saw celebrations of National Women's History Month, and now April provides the opportunity to celebrate National Poetry Month. National Poetry Month was established in 1996 with the aim to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievements of American poets, encourage the reading of poems, promote the introduction of poetry into classrooms across the nation, and to bolster greater support for poets and the art of poetry.



One way that almost every state (and even many counties and municipalities) across the nation honor the significance of poetry and the importance of supporting local artists is through the naming of an official poet laureate. State poet laureates teach, judge, counsel, and cheerlead in every corner of the state, using poetry to connect people of all ages and backgrounds to their families, communities, memories and inspirations.

In May 2012, SB1348 was signed into law by former Governor Jan Brewer permitting the Arizona Commission of the Arts to establish an official State Poet Laureate, making Arizona the 43rd state in the nation to institute a Poet or Writer Laureate position. Arizona's Poet Laureate post commemorates and honors the wealth of Arizona literary artists who, through their work and service, represent Arizona's values, independence, storied history and boundless potential.

On August 19, 2013, celebrated poet Alberto Alvaro Rios was appointed the state of Arizona's inaugural poet laureate. Alberto Rios has published individual works in over 300 journals and more than 250 anthologies, has been honored with numerous awards, including the Walt Whitman Award in Poetry bestowed by the Academy of American Poets, and plays an active role leading countless community projects in cities and towns across Arizona.

In honor of National Poetry Month, each of CSA's newsletters during the month of April will feature poetry celebrating our beautiful state. This week's poem was crafted by Mr. Rios for former Arizona Governor, Janet Napolitano, during her January 2003 inaugural address.

Inaugural Poem: In Us This Day by Alberto Alvaro Rios

On the Occasion of the Inauguration of Janet Napolitano

*Speak to the animal in us
And the animal will answer.
Speak to the human in us
And a voice in song will rise.*

*Sometimes, we are brutal and dark green.
We are the fishhook thorns on the wild cactus.
But sometimes as well, we are the sky itself,
That great blue living room filled with endless space
In every direction there is to see. We are,
As things turn out, the answer and the problem both.
Every day we must choose our suit of clothes.*

*All of Arizona stands here today.
Today, we inaugurate ourselves.
Today, everything is possible.
Every vote is filled after all with a dream.*

*But onward, now, to the work of the dream,
To the work and its complex surprises:
We are so many, and our problems so great
They insist themselves in front of our joys.
But joy is our greater truth, our common destination.*

*We are in a border time,
The border between countries, between centuries,
The border between yesterday and tomorrow,
What we have been and what we are going to be.
We are a state of many languages, many cultures.
We must translate this into a state with many ideas.
Let us choose the best from this treasury of dreams.
Let us create a future*

*We would want to speak in any language.
We should not try to predict the future —
Instead, let us make it, and let us make it our own.*

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NACo Webinar: Increasing Community Engagement in Your County's Justice System

On Thursday, April 13, 2017 from 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm (EST), the National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting a webinar that will focus on increasing community engagement in the local county justice systems. For counties, learning from and partnering with individuals and communities that have been impacted by the criminal justice system is a critical part of enhancing county justice systems. Attendees will learn from an expert from the Center on Court Innovation and will also hear from representatives from Pima County, Arizona, and Multnomah County, Oregon, on their efforts to improve community engagement.

To register for the webinar, please [click here](#).

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

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