



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

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New Supervisors Spotlight: Supervisor Duce Minor, La Paz 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 Duce Minor

County: La Paz County

District: 2

Birthdate: August 20



Occupation (other than supervisor): Prior to his current position as La Paz County Supervisor, Supervisor Minor has spent the last 26 years as the owner/producer of Small Time Television Productions, and most recently has served over 23 years as the Executive Director of the Parker Area Alliance for Community Empowerment (PAACE), which he described as the best possible job to have.

Family: Supervisor Minor and his wife Tammy have been married since 1982. Together they have four adult children, and are the very proud grandparents of seven grandsons.

Length of time in Arizona: Though originally from California, Supervisor Minor fell in love with the small-town feel of Parker, and couldn't forget the many family trips he spent at Lake Havasu and the Colorado River boating and waterskiing. In 1978, he moved to Parker, making it his permanent home.

Civic organization involvement: Supervisor Minor's commitment to and love for his county and community can be seen in the large number of organizations that he has participated in and belonged to over the years. Some of these include being a member of the Parker Rotary Club and Elks Lodge, he served as a member of the Parker Unified School District Governing Board and on the Arizona School Board Association Executive Committee (including as President), he was Chair of the La Paz County's DES Advisory Council, he is currently serving as a member of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP), and has even served as officer and coach for Parker Little League.

Best piece of advice received: During his first stint as county supervisor, Supervisor Minor remembers getting one particular important piece of guidance from then Senate President, Robert Usdane. Mr. Usdane said that in politics, perception is reality and in order to be as successful as possible, one must learn how to accept only "half a loaf," especially at the state level.

Inspiration to run for county supervisor: Supervisor Minor's motivation to run for county supervisor again after 25 years was one of love, care, and commitment to helping his county in any way he could. Having previously served as county supervisor (including a year spent as CSA President), and as part of the local business community, he had a vested interest in the success of the county and the welfare of its citizens. Though he knew going into the 2016 elections that the county was facing an uphill battle, Supervisor Minor felt a sincere duty to face the challenge head-on, and to bear the burden of helping the county and community thrive again.

Favorite place in La Paz County: Without a doubt, the Colorado River is Supervisor Minor's favorite place to be. Although La Paz offers a wide variety of activities and locations to enjoy, his affection for the water keeps him going back again and again.

Most admired Arizona political figure: For Supervisor Minor, Congressman Bob Stump was an Arizona politician he admired most. Supervisor Minor described him as a true statesman who talked to you like a person, was always respectful even in opposition, and was honest about his opinions and feelings about a topic.

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First Framework of State Budget Released: County Highlights

Though budget negotiations have been occurring behind closed doors for some time, this week we caught the first glimpse of the Arizona House of Representatives' budget outline. The information provided by the House shows some key differences between their budget and the Governor's budget that he released earlier this year. Importantly, the House framework does not include the state university bonding proposal, which is a top priority for the executive. This signals that the bonding proposal will be a major point of contention in the negotiations as they continue.

As for county budget priorities, the House budget includes the following:

- The House has included HURF funding in its budget priorities, setting aside a one-time appropriation of \$30 million for cities and counties' road needs. This was not included in Governor Ducey's budget.
- The House also has a \$30 million budget "box" to fund additional initiatives. Though it remains to be seen which items will ultimately be included, the document identifies the county relief for the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections cost shift as a candidate for possible funding.

The Senate held small group meetings on Thursday to review the House framework, at this time it is unclear how the House items are being received. Both chambers are expected to have conversations through next week and will need to arrive at a point where they can engage the ninth floor on negotiations.

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Session Snapshot

Today marks the 82nd day of the 53rd Legislative Session.

This was the final week where House and Senate Appropriations committees heard non-budget legislation. Of the 1,057 bills introduced this year, the legislature has already passed 143 bills, and Governor Ducey has signed 121 of them, but vetoed just one. 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.

As always, our staff will continue to analyze and monitor each bill as it moves through the process and we will determine if it has an impact on our counties.

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

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This Week in Arizona Legislative History

It's quiz time!

Question: How many years has copper been considered Arizona's official state metal?

Answer: Surprisingly, copper has only been legally recognized as the official state metal for 2 years! As many have seen throughout the years, a piece of proposed legislation considered to be a "shoo-in" for unanimous support doesn't always end up as expected. Senator Huppenthal and his dino-mite proposal for the naming of an official state dinosaur learned this difficult lesson during the 1998 legislative session. Luckily for the fourth grade students of Copper Creek Elementary School in Tucson, they fared much better in 2015 when they approached Senator Steve Smith about introducing a bill that would allow the adoption of copper as the official state metal. The bill quickly garnered support from state officials, passed unanimously through the House and Senate, and without any hesitation, was signed into law by the governor on March 27, 2015.

As many Arizonans know, copper and copper mining have been a crucial component of Arizona's economy and history long before statehood, with its significance even being commemorated on the Arizona state seal. The official state seal was adopted in 1911 and is representative of the fundamental drivers of Arizona's economy: the "Five C's." If you don't remember from our previous article on the anniversary of Arizona's statehood, the "Five C's" are cattle, citrus, cotton, copper, and climate.

Arizona has been producing copper since the 1800's, and has remained one of the leading copper-producing states across the nation. Approximately 64% of all U.S. copper production comes from Arizona mines, with the copper industry injecting billions of dollars into the state economy, and providing more than 10,000 jobs. Arizona also lays claim to the largest copper mine in North America, which is located in Greenlee County.

Even though Copper Creek's civic-minded fourth graders may not have intended to go so far as to change the law with their suggestion, they should be no less proud of the role they played in making Arizona history.

Visit [here](#) for an interesting look at the history of Arizona's state seal, and [here](#) for additional information on copper mining in Arizona.

Sources: [Arizona Secretary of State](#); [The Arizona Experience](#)

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NACo Stepping Up Webinar: Conducting Timely Mental Health Screening & Assessment in Jails

On April 6, 2017 from 2-3:00 p.m. (EST), join the National Association of Counties (NACo) Stepping Up partners for the second webinar in the Six Questions series, which will feature key strategies for conducting timely screening and assessments for mental health and substance use in jails. To learn more about how to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail, this webinar will explore how counties need to have a clear and accurate understanding of the prevalence of these disorders within their jail populations. This requires universal screening of every person booked into jail for mental illnesses, as well as other behavioral health needs, such as substance use. During this webinar, a national expert will provide an overview of key strategies from the Six Questions report for effectively and consistently identifying people with mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders in county jails and how to appropriately share this information. Then, county officials will share how they have implemented screening and assessment processes in their jails and discuss the benefits of these tools.

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

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

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