



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

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New Supervisors Spotlight: Supervisor Martin Porchas, Yuma 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 Martin Porchas

County: Yuma County

District: 1

Birthdate: February 22



Education: He graduated from Kofa High School and continued his studies at Arizona Western College.

Family: Supervisor Porchas is married to his lovely wife, Dalila, and together they have two children.

Occupation (other than supervisor): When Supervisor Porchas was a young child, his father and older siblings worked in the fertile fields of Yuma County as farm laborers, where he would help out on the weekends and during school breaks. Growing up in that environment was one of the main reasons Supervisor Porchas developed a passion for agriculture, and began his career working as a farm attendant for the University of Arizona's Yuma Agriculture Center. He later became a research specialist with the Department of Plant Pathology, where he continues his work in fungi and diseases.

Length of time in Arizona: Supervisor Porchas is a lifelong resident of Yuma County. His parents immigrated to the United States and settled into the Somerton area, and his family has considered it home ever since.

Civic organization involvement: Supervisor Porchas has always been an active resident of Yuma County. Throughout his career, Supervisor Porchas has served on many different boards representing the City of Somerton. He served on the Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization Executive Board from 2007-2016, the Western Arizona Council of Governments Executive Board from 2007-2016, and the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation Executive Board from 2010-2016. Supervisor Porchas was also appointed to the Yuma County Planning and Zoning Commission in 2013, and is also a board member for Campesinos Sin Fronteras.

Best piece of advice received: For Supervisor Porchas, the best piece of advice he has ever received was to always listen first, then analyze, then speak. He joked that it has helped keep him out of some sticky situations, and is the kind of advice that one can use, no matter their profession.

Inspiration to run for county supervisor: Supervisor Porchas has a long history of representing his hometown of Somerton and participating in various community organizations. He was elected to the Somerton City Council in 2005, and in 2009 was elected Mayor of Somerton, where he served until last year when he decided that the next phase of his career was to run for county supervisor. Supervisor Porchas explained that his passion for helping the city of Somerton has always been a main motivating factor, and that becoming county supervisor seemed like the next best step to continue his service in a different capacity.

Favorite place in Yuma County: Though there are many beautiful places to visit throughout Yuma County, in particular, Supervisor Porchas enjoys any park, green area, or just being out in nature in general. He said that because of his love of natural surroundings and for the people of his community, he enjoys seeing families out playing and enjoying themselves in the various outdoor spaces.

Most admired Arizona political figure: Supervisor Porchas' political involvement is definitely a family affair, and for him, it is his nephew who he discussed as being a political figure he most admired in his life. Supervisor Porchas explained that although his nephew is younger than himself, he has an enviable drive and a passion for always putting community first, and for participating in the betterment of the state of Arizona. His nephew currently works for Congressman Ruben Gallego, and has worked previously with a number of other influential Arizona politicians, including Congressman Raul Grijalva.

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2017 Legislation Session Adjourned Sine Die

On Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. both chambers of the legislature adjourned the 2017 Legislative Session Sine Die. This is the first time the Arizona Legislature has ended session during daylight hours since June 19, 2003 when they concluded at 5:57 p.m. Session lasted 122 days, where last year's session ended after just 117 days.



Budget Recap

Last week both the Senate and the House passed out a \$9.8 billion dollar budget package which was transmitted to the governor earlier this week, and he is expected to sign it once session has ended. The University Bonding proposal, a major priority of Governor Ducey's, also passed as a standalone bill with bipartisan support. The final bonding plan does not impact counties or divert TPT collections, as originally proposed. Instead, the universities will receive \$27 million in general funds beginning in FY19 and going forward. Additionally, state universities will be able to issue bonds of up to \$1 billion to be paid over the next 25 years.

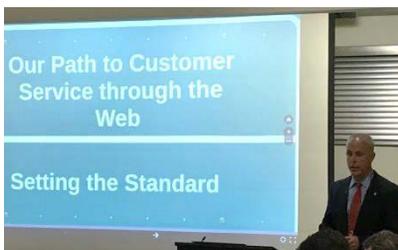
County priorities were included in the budget as follows for FY18:

- Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF): Restores \$30 million of HURF to local governments. Importantly, this item is restored as an on-going item.
- The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC): \$8 million in relief for FY18.
- In-Lieu Lottery Appropriations: 10 counties remain in the baseline, and \$1.7 million was added to include Mohave, Yavapai and Pinal (\$550,000 per county). The additional revenue for the three counties is programmed as one-time funding.
- County Flexibility Language: Please note, county flexibility language is again included in the budget, which allows counties with a population below 250,000 in the 2010 decennial census to use any source of county revenue to meet a county fiscal obligation for FY 2018, up to \$1,250,000 of county revenue for each county. There are also additional flexibility allowances.

During this session 1,079 bills were introduced and of that 355 bills were sent to the governor, of which he signed 302 so far and vetoed just 5. We had 14% fewer bills this year than last year. Governor Ducey has 10 days, until May 20, to sign or veto the remaining bills on his desk, which includes the state budget bills. Unless a bill states otherwise, the general effective date for legislation is August 9, 2017.

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Yuma County Shares Insight on County Website Creation



Kevin Tunell, Yuma County Communications Director, discussed county website improvement at the County Managers meeting today. Tunell explained the concept of "I think" website design, where a designer simply speculates regarding where to place links on a website, versus using quantitative data to determine what links should be featured most prominently. Tunell said that until about 2014 Yuma used "I think" design, mostly, he candidly acknowledged, based on his own thinking and speculation. However, starting in 2014, Tunell began using Google Analytics to improve the UX (user experience) of those utilizing Yuma County's website.

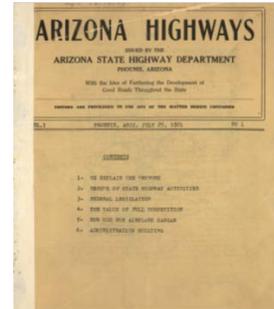
Tunell found that 80-90% of users visited 10-20% of the website, with HR/employment listings and court information being the most frequently visited webpages. That information allowed Tunell and his website developers to make the website's webpage placement more efficient and user-friendly. They also added a service request link that allowed county residents to both create a service request and track the progress of receiving the service. This saves county employees time (that they would have to spend on the phone talking to someone) and increases customer satisfaction.

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Feature: Arizona Memory Project – Arizona Highways Archives

We've all seen them – in magazine racks at gift shops and souvenir stores, in doctor's offices nestled between the *Readers Digests* and children's *Highlights* magazines, and even in hotel lobbies while waiting to check out. Perhaps it was always a comfort to see them displayed on your grandparents' coffee table, or it's possible you love them so much that you might have your own subscription. I'm talking about something almost all of us have seen or flipped through at some point in our lives: the iconic *Arizona Highways* magazine.

The *Arizona Highways* publications of today with their stunning views of our state's most beautiful landscapes, sunrises, mountainous peaks, nature, people, and locations are vastly different from the very first journals that were published in the early 1920's, which contained minimal pictures (of course none in color at that time), prominently featured advertisements for road building equipment, and published articles about bridge construction and the activities of the Arizona Department of Transportation.



It wasn't until the magazine came under the watchful eye of a new editor, Raymond Carlson, and new art director, George Avery, in the late 1930's that the magazine began to evolve into the colorful, informative, and picture-filled publication we enjoy today. Together, they would go on to make publishing history in 1946 as *Arizona Highways* became the world's first all-color publication, and managed to have the magazine banned from the Soviet Union in 1965 because it was viewed as propaganda. Thanks to these two visionaries, Arizona Highways has featured stunning color landscape photography from various well-known photographers such as Ansel Adams, David Muench, and Jack Dykinga, and have provided a conduit through which the unmatched beauty of Arizona is shared across the nation and in more than 120 countries around the world.

The best part is that through the work of ADOT and the Arizona State Archives' Arizona Memory Project, a large number of these "quintessentially Arizona" volumes have been preserved digitally [here](#) and are available to the general public. You can also subscribe to receive your very own copies of new magazines [here](#).

Sources: [Arizona Highways](#); [ADOT News Releases](#)

Images: [The Arizona Memory Project](#); [Arizona Highways](#)

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Happy Mother's Day!

Though this week has been filled with post-budget lethargy and sine die excitement, we must not forget one special day in particular. To all of the mom's out there (and a huge shout out to all of the moms who read the CSA newsletter each week): May all the love you gave to us come back to you a hundredfold on this special day!

Wishing you all the love and happiness you so richly deserve!

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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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