

# YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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Tuesday, October 26, 2021

## NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP

### **NEW DOME, WHO DIS?**

Work began this week to give the state Capitol building a fresh coat of copper on its iconic dome. The \$700,000 project comes just 10 years after the state spent over \$200,000 to replace the structure. The latest investment will put 2,500 new pounds of copper on the dome, according to a fact sheet provided by the Dept of Administration. The existing copper was installed in 2011 after the previous covering was damaged in a 2010 hailstorm. The 2011 replacement cost \$218,000, according to information provided by Megan Rose, a Dept of Administration spokeswoman.



But that dome didn't last long because, according to the fact sheet, "the copper was sealed after the installation, which has led to discoloration over the years and it has not aged well." "The new copper will be sealed prior to installation which should ensure it oxidizes into a patina over time," the fact sheet added. Workers started pulling off the existing copper on Monday and installation of the new copper is set for early December, with work scheduled to finish on Dec. 31. The "winged lady liberty" statue that tops the dome won't be disturbed during the work. The copper dome that was damaged in 2010 lasted more than three decades. It was installed to replace the original dome in 1978, but when workers started tearing down the original dome during that project, they didn't find exactly what they were expecting. The original dome wasn't copper at all, but Terne metal, an alloy of lead and tin, said Mike Braun, the executive director of the Arizona Legislative Council, which handles maintenance projects at the Capitol building. "I remember at the time, many people were surprised when that old dome came off, to find out that it wasn't actually copper," he said. It had presumably fooled some people because it was covered with a copper-colored paint.

### **MATT'S GOT MONEY, TOO**

Former Congressman Matt Salmon's gubernatorial campaign announced its new finance committee yesterday, which includes a number of well-known, moneyed Arizona Republicans. Mountainside Fitness CEO Tom Hatten, who bumped heads with Ducey and state regulators this year over Covid mitigation policies ([LINK](#)), chairs the 193-person committee. Salmon's campaign called Hatten a "widely-respected" business leader and indicated it picked him, in part, due to his opposition to those policies. "He stood up early for his employees' right to earn a living and our state is better off for having fighters like him," the campaign said in a statement emailed to our reporter. The committee also includes Diamondbacks President and CEO Derrick Hall, AXON

CEO and founder Rick Smith and U-Haul investor Mark Shoen – the third-richest Arizona resident, according to *Forbes* ([LINK](#)). That kind of financial backing does not guarantee votes, but it can give added momentum to a campaign. “Just because you have a well-funded campaign, doesn’t mean you will win, but you can’t win without a well-funded campaign,” Republican consultant Kirk Adams told our reporter in September after fellow GOP gubernatorial candidate Karrin Taylor Robson announced her own robust financial committee that included names like former Suns and Diamondbacks owner Jerry Colangelo, attorney Leo Beus and DMB co-founder Drew Brown ([YS, 9/20](#)). The Salmon campaign said it believes its own committee shows the “campaign is built to last.” “We may not have as much money as some candidates with individual wealth, but we will have enough to compete and win,” according to the statement.

### IT’S AN INTERESTING LIST



The Salmon gubernatorial campaign’s new finance committee includes a few conspicuous names, including Johnson Utilities founder George Johnson. He battled with regulators and the state over the past several years after residents served by his company in the East Valley reportedly suffered multiple water pressure and sewage overflow issues from 2010-2019 ([LINK](#)). Corp Comm

handed over management of the company to EPCOR in 2018, and ADEQ and AG Brnovich sued Johnson Utilities for \$100 million in 2019 in an attempt to force the company to correct its issues, according to reporting by the *Republic* ([LINK](#)). After a years-long battle, Johnson agreed to sell the company to EPCOR for \$110 million this year. Johnson and former Corporation Commissioner Gary Pierce, another finance committee member, were also central figures in another utilities-related scandal in 2018 after federal investigators accused the pair – along with Pierce’s wife Shelley and lobbyist Jim Norton – of conspiring to funnel bribes from Johnson to Pierce while the latter served on Corp Comm. Prosecutors brought the case to trial but ultimately filed papers to dismiss charges against everyone involved after facing a hung jury. At the time, one juror told the *Capitol Times* that most jurors were leaning towards acquitting the defendants ([LINK](#)). The Salmon campaign did not respond to a question about Johnson’s inclusion on the committee. Salmon’s finance committee also includes a significant number of lobbyists, including Mike Gardner, Gretchen Jacobs, Kevin DeMenna, Brian Tassinari, former Corporation Commissioner Tom Forese and more. The inclusion of so many lobbyists on the list could open Salmon up to further attacks from perceived frontrunner GOP frontrunner Kari Lake, who has already labeled Salmon part of the “swamp” due to his own history as a lobbyist, according to reporting by the *Arizona Mirror* ([LINK](#)). The Salmon campaign did not respond to questions from our reporter about whether the number of lobbyists in the committee could hurt Salmon’s ability to make inroads with GOP voters who are critical of the Republican “establishment.” However, Salmon’s team did reiterate its position that Lake is not a “real” Republican, because she or family

members donated to Democrats John Kerry and Barack Obama in the past – the same messaging that appears in a six-figure ad buy from a pro-Salmon PAC ([YS, 9/8](#)). “With well over half the electorate not having formed an opinion on the field, once voters learn Lake donated to Obama and supported Biden ... they will walk on her fiction,” the campaign said in a statement emailed to our reporter. “Matt is the only proven conservative in the race for governor who can both walk the walk and talk the talk.” Lake’s campaign has largely rebuffed the criticism, arguing past contributions do not reflect her current positions and the messaging is an attempt to distract from her higher polling numbers. “She is running to beat Katie Hobbs, the other candidates are running to beat Kari Lake – that’s the difference,” Lake spokesman Ross Trumble told our reporter in September.

### **THIS COULD TAKE A WHILE**

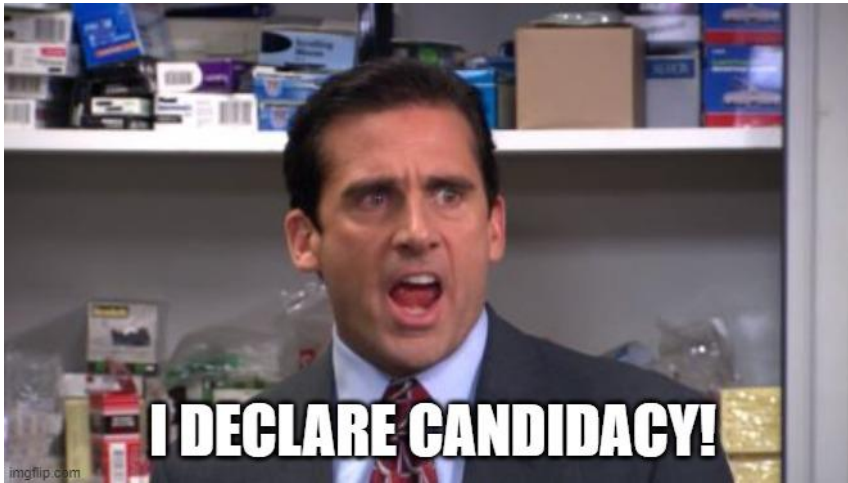
The IRC hopes to approve congressional and legislative draft maps on Thursday, though the legislative map will likely generate more debate than the congressional one, due to disagreements on how to divvy up the southern part of the state. The commission will consider three legislative maps on Thursday – something Chairwoman Erika Neuberg thinks will take up quite a bit of time. “If we have a 5-0 vote on one of those three options to start with, we’re done. If not, we’re going to be deliberating for a while,” Neuberg said. The commissioners will start Thursday with the legislative map version they approved last week ([version 8.0](#)), a map that includes Democratic



Commissioner Shereen Lerner’s proposed tweaks to Southern Arizona districts, and a map with Republican Commissioner David Mehl’s proposed changes, which also focused on Southern Arizona. “We’ve had a good amount of time to study the demographic variables in the maps of 8.0, and we can now contrast that against two different options,” Neuberg said. “It sounds like the bulk of it will be different than in the southern area.” The only changes the commission may see for the congressional map ([version 6.0](#)) before Thursday are tweaks from mapping consultants to make CD3 more compliant with the Voting Rights Act. Commissioners also plan to discuss a letter they received today from Tucson Mayor Regina Romero regarding congressional districts.



## **SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW**



Former Arizona Supreme Court Justice Andrew Gould re-announced his bid for Arizona attorney general yesterday, months after filing papers to enter the race – perhaps taking a note from Karrin Taylor Robson’s gubernatorial campaign ([YS, 10/7](#)). Gould, a former Yuma County Judge, officially announced his campaign on the steps of the Yuma County Superior Court and used his

connection to the border town to sell his candidacy in a crowded race. “I’m from this area,” Gould told Yuma radio station *KAWC* ([LINK](#)). “I understand the border and I have the experience...” The Gould campaign dubbed the event a campaign announcement despite the fact that he actually filed papers to run in the election back in April ([YS, 4/14](#)) and has run campaign ads since July ([LINK](#)). Gould was the second Republican to file to run in the AG race, following twice-failed CD1 candidate Tiffany Shedd. Former federal prosecutor Lacy Cooper, past Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry board chair Dawn Grove and perennial candidate Rodney Glassman have since entered the fray as well. That packed GOP field became a little more crowded yesterday when former Maricopa County prosecutor Abe Hamadeh filed to run for attorney general. Hamadeh is currently a U.S. Army Reserve intelligence officer.

## **LIGUORI WANTS TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING**

Sarah Liguori was sworn into the House this morning to represent LD28. Former House Chief Clerk Jim Drake, who Ducey recently appointed to the bench, presided over the ceremony in one of his first acts in his new capacity as a Maricopa County Superior Court judge. Bolding and Bowers both spoke briefly before her the event. “You come from a very dynamic district, and we hope it’ll be the same,” Bowers said. Bolding said he was glad to have her in the Democratic caucus. “Let’s get ready to do this,” he said. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors appointed Liguori to replace Aaron Lieberman, who resigned last month to focus on his gubernatorial bid. Liguori spoke briefly after she was sworn in, saying she has met nothing but supportive people since her appointment. “I look forward to the work ahead,” she said. Liguori told our report she has a couple of ideas about which committees she wants to serve on, but “there’s a little bit of flux with a couple of the representatives moving on and coming in,” alluding to the fact that there are four other House seats vacant now that are expected to be filled soon, with more resignations possible before the start of the session. Liguori said she would like to focus on women’s rights, climate change, housing sustainability and social justice issues. Now that she is officially a member of the House, she plans to start working on bills. “From here to the start of the session, that’s going to be my focus,” she said. Liguori also already decided to run for a full two-year term next year. “I’m beginning to campaign for re-election as soon as we start with the session,” she said.

## **THE REVOLVING DOOR**

Cox picked former legislator Steve Huffman to handle its government affairs in southern Arizona, the company announced today. Voters sent Huffman to the Arizona House of Representatives in 1998, and he served there until 2007, chairing both the Ways and Means and Environment committees during his tenure. He most recently worked in community and government affairs for the Town of Marana and the Tucson Association of Realtors.

## **·WAKE UP CALL·**

### **Indictment alleges man voted in jail**

*Arizona Capitol Times*

Attorney General Mark Brnovich's office has announced another indictment accusing someone of voting illegally from Pima County jail last year.

### **Covid relief money to fund new teacher program**

*Arizona Capitol Times*

A graduate residency program is the latest effort to chip away at state's teacher shortage and combat high turnover.

### **Sen. Kyrsten Sinema officiated wedding where some guests dressed in Native American costumes**

*Arizona Daily Star*

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema knows the bride and groom but not guests who wore "disrespectful and racist costumes...and she strongly condemns such behavior," her spokesperson said after Bisbee wedding Saturday was beset by protesters.

### **The results are in: Arizona standardized test scores fell during pandemic year**

*Cronkite News*

Standardized test scores in Arizona fell across the board last school year, as COVID-19 upended learning through the year and led to a sharp drop in the number of students taking the tests, the Arizona Department of Education said.

### **'Budget roadshow' to begin tour in Casa Grande on Thursday**

*Casa Grande Dispatch*

A group of legislators are touring the region to better explain the impact of the past year's budget and legislative session.

### **Maricopa resident who 'fell in love with Arizona' running for Congress**

*Maricopa Monitor*

Steven Beaver, a Maricopa resident, says he is an average citizen who identifies with those he represents.

### **Analysis finds COVID-19 was the leading cause of death in Arizona**

*Arizona Mirror*

That wasn't the case in other states where governors enacted strict anti-coronavirus measures.

### **End religious exemptions to workplace vaccine mandates**

*Arizona Daily Star (Opinion, Tim Steller)*

Tucson's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for city employees has brought 300 requests for religious accommodations.

That's brought a challenge to Tucson's mandate. But no employer should be considering employees' religion.

### **Sinema and Kelly need to govern like nothing is more important than voting rights because Republicans won't**

*Arizona Mirror (Opinion, Andrea Messinger Dalton and Laura Clement)*

In a democracy, disagreements about policy are often challenging — but also normal. The resulting tension can be empowering and is actually what helps to make our nation stronger. But for democracy to function, both our citizens and leaders need to share a commitment to democratic values.

### **The Southwest must fight for its water and its future**

*The Hill (Opinion, Jonathan Overpeck)*

For over 30 years, I've been a climate scientist who has focused intensely on the causes and consequences of drought and climate change. I've done my research all over the planet, but my No. 1 focus has been on interactions of drought and climate change in the Southwest United States and on how drought and climate change are impacting the Colorado River. Seven states in the U.S. and Mexico depend on the Colorado River for water, yet I worry most about one state: Arizona.

**Meghan McCain visits her dad's condo inside Donald Trump's head**

*Arizona Republic (Opinion, EJ Montini)*

The former president, who can't evict the late senator from his cranium, is now attacking McCain's daughter.

**Matt Salmon paling around with Steve Bannon? There goes his chance of becoming governor**

*Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)*

Matt Salmon just frittered away what little chance he had of becoming Arizona's next governor. This, by cozying up to Steve freaking Bannon.

**A \$40 million investment from Arizona won't save Lake Mead. But it could still help**

*Arizona Republic (Opinion, Joanna Allhands)*

Lake Mead could be facing a Tier 3 shortage by 2023, slashing our options to conserve. An investment from Arizona could help, even it solves nothing.

**Matt Salmon's Steve Bannon tweet proves one thing: It's Trump's Republican Party now**

*Arizona Republic (Opinion, Elvia Diaz)*

Some conservatives privately lament that every Arizona gubernatorial candidate has gone down the MAGA rabbit hole. But what are they doing to stop it?

**Take it from a longtime miner: Oak Flat must be saved. We don't need mining here anymore**

*Arizona Republic (Op-ed, Henry Munoz)*

Oak Flat tourism can end the boom-bust cycle we've experienced for years near Superior. Resolution Copper would destroy what we're trying to build.

## ·PRESS RELEASES·

### **Sinema Statement on Proposed Corporate Minimum Tax**

WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema released the following statement on a new proposed corporate minimum tax:

“This proposal represents a commonsense step toward ensuring that highly profitable corporations — which sometimes can avoid the current corporate tax rate — pay a reasonable minimum corporate tax on their profits, just as everyday Arizonans and Arizona small businesses do. I look forward to continuing discussions with the White House and colleagues to expand economic opportunities, retain America’s economic competitiveness, and help Arizona families get ahead.”

###

### **Congressmen Biggs & Comer Demand Answers from DHS on Preventing ICE Agents From Enforcing Immigration Laws**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congressman Andy Biggs (AZ-05) and Ranking Member James Comer (KY-01) sent a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas demanding answers on DHS’s “Guidelines for the Enforcement of Civil Immigration Law” that will prevent ICE agents from enforcing our immigration laws.

“Enough is enough. The Biden administration has created a crisis at our southern border and now Secretary Mayorkas is directing ICE agents not to enforce our immigration laws,” said Congressman Andy Biggs. “These guidelines are an affront to the rule of law and will only further incentivize illegal immigration. Instead of preventing ICE from enforcing the law, the Biden administration should be empowering them to keep our country safe. Moreover, Secretary Mayorkas should be removed from his position of authority immediately for implementing crisis-creating policies.”

“What happened to the rule of law? Starting on day one in office, President Biden in both word and action has put illegal immigrants first and Americans last through his radical open borders agenda. Under his watch, masses of children have been held in overcrowded facilities during a pandemic, apprehensions at the southwest border are at levels never before seen, the human smuggling industry is booming, and deadly drugs like fentanyl are harming communities. Now, this administration is directing ICE to cease enforcing our immigration laws. This is unacceptable. It’s time Congressional Democrats do their job and hold this administration accountable.” - Congressman James Comer

Read the full letter [here](#).

###

## Rodriguez, DeGrazia Call for Blockchain/Cryptocurrency Study Committee Members to Disclose Any Financial Ties

**PHOENIX**— On September 25 a study committee made up of House and Senate members, and members of the business and technology communities, met to discuss the future of blockchain and cryptocurrency within the Arizona economy. Because this and future meetings of the Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Study Committee will outline legislative changes to support and enhance this emerging industry, Representative Diego Rodriguez and House Democratic Whip Domingo DeGrazia today called for all committee members involved to disclose significant cryptocurrency positions including cryptocurrency-related assets. The Committee will meet again at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday (Oct. 27).

"The value of cryptocurrencies can fluctuate wildly and can easily be impacted by decisions we make at the Legislature," said Rodriguez, D-Phoenix. "Without exception, every member on this study committee should disclose whether or not they own any blockchain or crypto currency assets. It's basic transparency. It doesn't necessarily disqualify them from working on the subcommittee or on legislation, but the public should know if lawmakers working to enhance an emerging industry stand to benefit personally."

DeGrazia, D-Tucson, added, "Legislators should disclose any interest in, and recuse from, law making where they or their family will directly benefit. It's not like there's a shortage of experts that can testify to the pros and cons of cryptocurrency, especially in Arizona, a technology state."

Watch a replay of the Sept. 25 hearing [here](#).

The agenda for the Oct. 27 hearing can be found [here](#).

###

## Representative Hoffman Seeks Attorney General Opinion on Whether Biden-Harris Administration has Failed in its Obligation to Protect Arizona from Invasion at Southern Border

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – State Representative Jake Hoffman today sent a letter to Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich requesting a formal legal opinion of whether the Biden-Harris Administration has failed – intentionally or unintentionally – to uphold its obligations to protect the state from invasion under Article IV, Section 4 of the United States Constitution.

A copy of the full letter is [attached](#).

*Jake Hoffman is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 12, encompassing Gilbert & Queen Creek, and parts of Pinal County.*

###

## ICYMI: AZ GOP Gubernatorial Candidates Cozy Up to the Congressmen Who Helped Plan the Jan 6 Insurrection

**PHOENIX** – Since the Trump takeover of the Republican Party, Arizona Republican politicians have done [everything they can to prove they're the former president's most extreme and die-hard followers](#), including [trying to interfere with our elections in 2020](#). So far, Republicans in the gubernatorial race have been largely silent on the attacks on the US Capitol.

But, yesterday Rolling Stone [reported new evidence](#) that Congressmen Gosar and Biggs – who have openly sided with the insurrectionists and even [voted against honoring the police officers](#) who died in the deadly attack – helped to plan the January 6th events, going so far as promising “blanket pardons” from Trump. Gubernatorial candidates [Kari Lake](#) and [Matt Salmon](#) have openly embraced Gosar and Biggs and their out of touch and dangerous views, while Karrin Taylor Robson has remained silent on the dangerous influence of extremism in Arizona, even desperately [trying to establish](#) her own bench of supporters from the AZGOP conspiracy caucus.



“AZGOP Republican gubernatorial candidates are crawling over each other to prove themselves as the most fervent supporters of Donald Trump, ignoring Arizona voters in the process,” said Alex Alvarez, spokesperson for the Arizona Democratic Party. “Instead of telling Arizona families how they plan to lead on our COVID-19 recovery, they’re chasing the support of Trump and his most extreme and dangerous enablers.”

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## **AZHCC hosts 25th Annual DATOS: The State of Arizona's Hispanic Market event and research publication.**

*The Future of Housing will be the focus of the annual Arizona Hispanic Chamber (AZHCC) DATOS release and event. Every year demographic, sociographic and psychographic data is collected on the impact of Hispanics in Arizona.*

PHOENIX – This year, in addition to sharing data on the Hispanic population and business as we do every year, DATOS will highlight The Future of Housing. More specifically, the AZHCC will showcase the Latino contributions and impact in the housing sector. While systemic inequities persist and resource allocation and opportunities are substantially disproportionate for families of color, the chamber highlights this issue to reinforce the need for reform and celebrate the advancements of the Latinx community.

These findings and more will be published in the 2021 DATOS: The State of Arizona’s Hispanic Market report and will be shared as part of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s hybrid event on October 29, 2021 with panelists Amy Schwabenlender – Human Services Campuses, Chris Rodriguez – Ability 360 and Gloria Muñoz - Maricopa Housing. The event will be at the Arizona Grand Resort and also livestreamed via YouTube on the AZHCC channel ([www.youtube.com/azhcc1](http://www.youtube.com/azhcc1)).

The Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce partnered with Vitalyst Health Foundation to provide a new lens for DATOS. This dynamic framework explores data on Arizona Hispanics with relation to the social determinants of public health including, but not limited to, education, economic opportunity, and health care. There are 12 such elements of a healthy community and every year DATOS will select one for a deep dive perspective. This year, we will highlight Housing.

News media outlets interested in receiving an embargoed copy of this year’s full DATOS report may contact Christina Gonzalez at [Christinag@azhcc.com](mailto:Christinag@azhcc.com). High-resolution file photos from the 2021 DATOS conference are available at this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2bwiyircjzvm5yd/AABENZ50CuyB9MaVyTInNzfra?dl=0>

Among the findings in this year’s report:

If Hispanics were their own economy, they would be the 8th largest economy in the world.

Seventy percent of new homeowners will be Latino between 2020-2040.

The Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale area ranks in the top 20 markets with the most mortgage-ready Hispanic millennials.

- Virtual [Event Registration Link Here](#)

For information on event registration, contact Elizabeth Flores at (602) 279-1800 or [events@azhcc.com](mailto:events@azhcc.com)

About the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (AZHCC)

Founded in 1948, the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (AZHCC) is the premier advocate for more than 125,000 Hispanic-owned small businesses and more than 2 million Hispanic consumers statewide.

Led by President and CEO Monica Villalobos, the non-profit organization provides products and services in the areas of market intelligence, capacity building, advocacy, and education for the benefit and success of its members, corporate partners and to actively promote the economic growth and vitality of Arizona. The Arizona Hispanic Chamber’s annual signature events include the Black & White Ball and Business Awards; the release of DATOS: State of the Hispanic Market; the Arizona Minority Business Enterprise Summit; and the Bud Shootout Golf Tournament—along with more than 50 other workshops, seminars, public forums and business networking activities.

The Chamber also operates Arizona’s only federally funded Minority Business Development Agency Center, which provides access to contracts and capital for mid-sized companies among the state’s 100,000+



Minority Business Enterprises in search of growth and investment opportunities. The AZHCC also operates the NABEDC center serving American Indian, Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiians in AZ, UT and NV. The Arizona Hispanic Chamber is dedicated to promoting the health and prosperity of the state and national economy by serving as a vital link to the growing power and influence of Hispanic business owners and consumers as part of our increasingly diverse global marketplace.

We encourage you to connect with us on [Facebook](#), check out our videos on [YouTube](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and check out our [Website](#), for up-to-date information about AZHCC.

###

## Cox taps Steve Huffman to lead government affairs in Southern Arizona

**TUCSON** — Cox announced that Steve Huffman has joined the company as Manager of Government Affairs in Southern Arizona. Huffman is no stranger to Southern Arizona and statewide politics, most recently working in community and government affairs for the Town of Marana and the Tucson Association of Realtors.

Steve has had an illustrious career so far including being elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 1998 and serving as Chairman of the Environment and Ways & Means committees. Some of his legislative achievements include significant property and income tax reforms. Steve also partnered with Pima County to help create the Pima Transportation Authority and is currently a member of the Citizens Oversight Committee for the Pima County Regional Transportation Authority.

An Arizona native and graduate of the University of Arizona, Steve is deeply committed to his community and is excited about his new role at Cox. “I’m thrilled to be joining the Cox government affairs team and plan to tap my experience and knowledge of Southern Arizona issues to advance telecommunications policy improving connectivity for local citizens,” he mentioned.

Steve lives in Oro Valley with his two sons, and their recently adopted pit bull terrier, Daisy from the Pima Animal Care Center. He’s an avid fan of the outdoors and enjoys hiking and skiing.

”QUOTE  
OF THE DAY”

“I’m beginning to campaign for re-election as soon as we start with the session.”

- Newly appointed Rep. Sarah Liguori, who was sworn into the Arizona House today to represent LD28.