

## The Political Affiliations of Candidates in Non-partisan Elections: Pima County 2026

Candidates in non-partisan elections are not nominated by political parties, but a **candidate's registered political affiliation is a public record that voters have a right to know**. Registration as a member of a political party is generally **presumed to be a declaration of support for the principles and goals of that party**. The following information is intended as a *supplement* to the information published in the State and County "Publicity Pamphlets" and other election guides. Note that Fire District elections are omitted. The methods used to compile the information in this table are described on p.2 along with the footnotes.

| <u>Party</u>                                                                                 | <u>Ballot name</u>           | <u>Information / Website:</u>                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court</b>                                                  |                              |                                                                                                                                                  |
| **R                                                                                          | LOPEZ IV, JOHN               | For Supreme and Appellate judges' bios, visit: <a href="http://azcourts.gov">azcourts.gov</a><br><i>Appointed in 2016 by Gov. Doug Ducey [R]</i> |
| <b>Judge of the Court of Appeals Division II (2)</b>                                         |                              |                                                                                                                                                  |
| **O <sup>1</sup>                                                                             | BREARCLIFFE, SEAN            | <i>Appointed in 2017 by Gov. Doug Ducey [R]</i>                                                                                                  |
| R                                                                                            | KELLY, MICHAEL               | <i>Appointed in 2022 by Gov. Doug Ducey [R]</i>                                                                                                  |
| ___ <sup>2</sup>                                                                             | SKLAR, JEFFREY               | <i>Appointed in 2022 by Gov. Doug Ducey [R]</i>                                                                                                  |
| <b>Judges of the Arizona Superior Court in Pima County (listed by Division)</b>              |                              |                                                                                                                                                  |
| ___ <sup>2</sup>                                                                             | GOODWIN, J ALAN (02)         | <i>Appointed in 2020 by Gov. Doug Ducey [R]</i>                                                                                                  |
| O                                                                                            | BOSTWICK, JANET CALKINS (04) | <i>Appointed in 2016 by Gov. Doug Ducey [R]</i>                                                                                                  |
| O <sup>1</sup>                                                                               | LIWSKI, DANELLE BENNET (06)  | <i>Appointed in 2011 by Gov. Jan Brewer [R]</i>                                                                                                  |
| ___ <sup>2,3</sup>                                                                           | BENSLEY, SANDRA M.           | <b><i>Appointed in 2024 by Gov. Katie Hobbs [D]</i></b>                                                                                          |
| R                                                                                            | WOODS, CATHERINE M. (17)     | <i>Appointed in 2011 by Gov. Jan Brewer [R]</i>                                                                                                  |
| R                                                                                            | QUIGLEY, KATHLEEN A. (19)    | <i>Appointed in 2012 by Gov. Jan Brewer [R]</i>                                                                                                  |
| ___ <sup>2</sup>                                                                             | SAN ANGELO, LAURIE B. (20)   | <i>Appointed in 2012 by Gov. Jan Brewer [R]</i>                                                                                                  |
| R                                                                                            | KUHN, CYNTHIA T. (21)        | <i>Appointed in 2016 by Gov. Doug Ducey [R]</i>                                                                                                  |
| ___ <sup>2,4</sup>                                                                           | BERGIN, JEFFREY T. (22)      | <i>Appointed in 2011 by Gov. Jan Brewer [R]</i>                                                                                                  |
| O                                                                                            | BURNETT, RANDI (25)          | <b><i>Appointed in 2024 by Gov. Katie Hobbs [D]</i></b>                                                                                          |
| <b>Governing Board - Tucson Unified School District No. 1</b>                                |                              |                                                                                                                                                  |
| D <sup>5</sup>                                                                               | ACOSTA RUIZ, PILAR           | <a href="http://pilar4tusd.com">pilar4tusd.com</a>                                                                                               |
| D                                                                                            | ECKSTROM, JENNIFER           | <a href="http://schools.pima.gov/elections">schools.pima.gov/elections</a> and click "2026...Candidate Statements"                               |
| O                                                                                            | FERNANDEZ, SKYE              | <a href="http://skyefernandez.com">skyefernandez.com</a>                                                                                         |
| D                                                                                            | RHODES, TRE'DAVON            | <a href="http://trefortusd.com">trefortusd.com</a>                                                                                               |
| R                                                                                            | ROMERO, VAL                  | <a href="http://val-romero.com">val-romero.com</a>                                                                                               |
| <b>Governing Board - Amphitheater Unified School District No. 10</b>                         |                              |                                                                                                                                                  |
| D                                                                                            | FIFE, JOHN                   | <a href="http://johnfifeoramphi.com">johnfifeoramphi.com</a>                                                                                     |
| D                                                                                            | GODLEWSKI, NINA              | <a href="http://schools.pima.gov/elections">schools.pima.gov/elections</a> and click "2026...Candidate Statements"                               |
| D                                                                                            | SLATER, ELIZABETH            | <a href="http://slaterforamphi.com">slaterforamphi.com</a>                                                                                       |
| <b>Governing Board - Amphitheater Unified School District No. 10 - Term expires 12/31/28</b> |                              |                                                                                                                                                  |
| D                                                                                            | GEMMA, MICHAEL               | <a href="http://schools.pima.gov/elections">schools.pima.gov/elections</a> and click "2026...Candidate Statements"                               |
| D                                                                                            | OUTLAW RYAN, KIMBERLY        | <a href="http://schools.pima.gov/elections">schools.pima.gov/elections</a> and click "2026...Candidate Statements"                               |
| <b>Governing Board - Tanque Verde Unified School District No. 13</b>                         |                              |                                                                                                                                                  |
| D                                                                                            | JORDAN, PIPER                | <a href="http://piperfortvusd.com">piperfortvusd.com</a>                                                                                         |
| D                                                                                            | PETERSON, BETH               | <a href="http://schools.pima.gov/elections">schools.pima.gov/elections</a> and click "2026...Candidate Statements"                               |
| R                                                                                            | TRASK, THOMAS                | <a href="http://schools.pima.gov/elections">schools.pima.gov/elections</a> and click "2026...Candidate Statements"                               |
| <b>Governing Board - Sahuarita Unified School District No. 30</b>                            |                              |                                                                                                                                                  |
| R                                                                                            | RODRIGUEZ, RAUL              | <a href="http://schools.pima.gov/elections">schools.pima.gov/elections</a> and click "2026...Candidate Statements"                               |
| R                                                                                            | SPARKS, JOHN                 | <a href="http://schools.pima.gov/elections">schools.pima.gov/elections</a> and click "2026...Candidate Statements"                               |

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## Political Affiliations in Non-partisan Elections: Pima County 2024 (p. 2)

| <u>Party</u>                                                  | <u>Ballot name</u>    | <u>Information / Website:</u>                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Governing Board - Joint Technical Education District 2</b> |                       |                                                                                                                     |
| D                                                             | LEHR, BETH            | <a href="https://schools.pima.gov/elections">schools.pima.gov/elections</a> and click “2026...Candidate Statements” |
| D                                                             | RANKIN ELLIOTT, CINDY | <a href="https://schools.pima.gov/elections">schools.pima.gov/elections</a> and click “2026...Candidate Statements” |
| <b>Council Member - City of South Tucson</b>                  |                       |                                                                                                                     |
| D                                                             | AGUIRRE, CESAR        | member of the Council; no current campaign website found                                                            |
| D                                                             | BACA, EDUARDO         | no current campaign website found                                                                                   |
| O                                                             | FEDERICO, DEBBIE      | no current campaign website found                                                                                   |
| D                                                             | FLAGG, BRIAN          | member of the Council; no current campaign website found                                                            |

D = Democrat R = Republican O = Other [Independent, Party Not Designated, etc.]

**\*\* = Rated “Do Not Retain” by CEBV’s *Gavel Watch*.** Among other concerns: Lopez is a member of the far-right Federalist Society, and he ruled that the 1864 law banning abortion and mandating prison sentences should be reinstated; Brearcliffe supported Arizona’s ban on gay marriage in defiance of a Federal court ruling, and he donated to Republican political campaigns while a judge.

### NOTES:

1. At the time of a previous retention election, candidate’s registration was identified as R.
2. No registration was found for any combination of candidate’s listed names; affiliation cannot be determined from registration records. Note that judges and certain other persons are permitted to make their registration data unavailable to the general public.
3. A voter of the same name has been previously registered in Pima County as D.
4. At the time of a previous retention election, candidate’s registration was identified as O.
5. No registration for that listed name was found; registration was found for variant “Pilar M. Ruiz” at an address associated with owner “Pilar M. Acosta”; registration is presumptively identified as candidate’s.

### METHODS AND SOURCES:

Lists of candidates posted on the Pima County Elections Department’s website, on the Arizona Courts’ website, in the AZ Secretary of State’s Election Guide, and on the Pima County School Superintendent’s website were searched in a voter-registration database covering all of Arizona and current as of September 2026, and, where appropriate, in a database of Pima County registrations covering certain previous years.

**When a candidate’s name matches the name on one and only one registration and that registration’s address is located in the relevant election district**, the registration is **presumed to be the candidate’s**, and the registered party affiliation is noted in the left-hand column of the table. When there is a discrepancy between the names or the addresses, a note is provided below; common nicknames (“Tom” for “Thomas”, “Bill” for “William”) are not considered discrepancies. Candidates’ websites and supplemental information used to assist in identifying candidates were obtained only from reports and/or public records available online and located by web searches on the name & office; citations retrieved in the first two pages of each search were reviewed.

For additional information, visit the *Pima County Democratic Party (PCDP)* at [pimavote.com](https://pimavote.com) and *Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV)* at [cebv.us/voter-guides](https://cebv.us/voter-guides). Note that the Superior Court judges’ bios are **no longer posted** on the *Pima County Superior Court* website at [sc.pima.gov](https://sc.pima.gov).

### JPR: JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The members of the Arizona Commission on Judicial Performance Review, appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court, review various information and vote on whether each judge “Meets” or “Does Not Meet” performance standards. Every judge on this year’s ballot was deemed “Meets”. Note that **NO statistically valid comparisons and conclusions can be drawn from the survey data tables** reported on the JPR website; self-selected sampling and response rates as low as 25% create an overwhelming potential for non-response bias.