



Several Maricopa County posts, from assessor to supervisor, are up for grabs in Tuesday's election

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Voters will elect the leaders of many Maricopa County offices on Tuesday.

The county assessor, Board of Supervisors, recorder and treasurer all are on the ballot in Tuesday's election.

Most of these positions in the majority Republican county are held by Republicans, and some of the spots have lacked Democratic candidates in past elections.

This year, though, as Arizona is eyed nationally as a swing state that could vote for a Democratic president for the first time since choosing Bill Clinton over Bob Dole in 1996, all of the county Republicans on the ballot face Democratic challengers.

Here is more about each race.

Maricopa County assessor

The current county assessor, Republican Eddie Cook, is on the ballot, along with Democrat Aaron Connor.

The Assessor's Office determines the value of properties in Maricopa County, which dictates how much a property owner pays in taxes.

The Board of Supervisors appointed Cook to the role in February after Paul Petersen resigned after being indicted for an alleged illegal international child adoption scheme.

Both candidates say they are looking to restore public trust that was lost during the Petersen scandal. They both also say Petersen's resignation opened the Assessor's Office to scrutiny that revealed problems with staffing, technology and transparency they want to fix.

Cook is a former Gilbert council member and a technology account manager for NetApp, a technology company that provides cloud-based data services.

He said he wants to improve the culture of the assessor's office, restructure it to be more efficient, and provide more transparency on property valuation.

Aaron Connor is the first Democrat on the ballot for the role since 1992. He is a first-time political candidate who has spent his career in the mortgage and technology industries.

He says he believes in "transparency, fairness, accuracy and trust," and he believes the office needs a leader with a background in real estate.

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

All five county supervisors are on the ballot: The four Republican supervisors in District 1 through District 4 face Democratic challengers, while Democrat Steve Gallardo in District 5 is running unopposed.

The supervisors set the county's budget and make decisions on issues such as the environment, land use, public health and transportation.

COVID-19 has put the office in the spotlight in recent months and brought criticism from both sides as the supervisors made decisions on the county's mask mandate and how to spend federal coronavirus relief funds.

Challengers say the incumbents didn't act quickly and strongly enough to try to protect public health and jobs as the virus spread across the county this summer, while incumbents say they made the best, measured decisions they could at the time.

District 1

Republican incumbent Jack Sellers faces Democrat Jevin Hodge in District 1.

District 1 includes the southeastern region of the county, including parts of Ahwatukee Foothills, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Queen Creek and Tempe.

Sellers has served on the board since February 2019 and said he will focus on how the county can maintain and improve its quality of life through better planning, recruitment of high-paying jobs and investment in infrastructure.

Hodge, a Democrat who is running for political office for the first time, is the national engagement director for LINK Strategic Partners. He said the county needs to invest more in local businesses and education.

District 2

Incumbent Steve Chucri, a Republican, faces Democrat Deedra Abboud in District 2.

Write-in candidate Tory Smock also is running for the seat.

District 2 includes the northeastern part of the county, including parts of Apache Junction, Carefree, Cave Creek, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Reservation, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Phoenix, Scottsdale and Salt River Reservation.

Chucri has been a county supervisor since 2012. His priority if re-elected will be making sure the county has a "forward vision" as it continues to grow.

Abboud has been a civil rights and social justice advocate, attorney and small-business owner. She wants to help improve the county's infrastructure, address conflicts of interest on the current Board of Supervisors and improve residents' accessibility to the board.

District 3

Incumbent Bill Gates, a Republican, faces Democrat Whitney Walker in District 3.

District 3 covers the north-central part of the county, including parts of Anthem, Desert Hills, New River, Phoenix and Paradise Valley.

Gates, who has served as a supervisor since 2017, said his priorities will be economic development as the county comes out of COVID-19 and smart growth.

Walker, the former director of public policy and communications for Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition, said she plans to focus on are education, stabilizing the county's economy, supporting small businesses and expanding access to health care.

District 4

Incumbent Clint Hickman, a Republican, faces Democrat Suzanne Story in District 4.

District 4 covers the northwestern part of the county, including parts of Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise, Wickenburg and Youngtown.

Hickman, a supervisor since 2013, said his priorities include continuing to plan for the incredible growth the county is seeing, and enticing great companies and higher-paying jobs.

Story is a 20-year high school English teacher. She is dedicated to equity, transparency, responsible stewardship of resources and honest communication, according to her campaign website.

Maricopa County recorder

The Recorder's Office helps the supervisors oversee the county's elections, along with recording, tracking and providing public access to documents such as deeds and property maps.

Both Fontes and Richer have a background in law and public policy.

Fontes is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, and served as a prosecutor with the Denver District Attorney's Office, Maricopa County Attorney's Office and the Arizona Attorney General's Office before transitioning to the private sector.

Fontes said he wants to continue making it easier to vote, collaborating with others to run the county's elections and ensuring the voting process is safe from hackers.

Richer is a lawyer for Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie in downtown Phoenix. Richer previously worked in business management and public policy, including for think tanks such as American Enterprise Institute and the Cato Institute.

Richer says he stands for "fair and competent elections" and wants voters to "have confidence in the voting process."

Maricopa County treasurer

Voters will choose between Republican state lawmaker John Allen and Democrat Daniel Toporek as they elect a new county treasurer.

The treasurer's office sends out property tax bills and collects and disburses the county's tax revenue.

Allen has spent the past two decades working in politics, while Toporek is a first-time political candidate.

Allen defeated the current treasurer, Royce Flora, in the August primary. He was first elected to the state Legislature in 2002 and has spent 11 of the past 17 years in the Arizona House of Representatives, including two years as Republican majority leader.

He said he would like to make the Treasurer's Office more user-friendly and foster better cross-county collaboration, so that issues, like the high-profile tax dispute that nearly led to a veteran losing his mobile home, are avoided from the start.

Toporek retired from the military last year and moved back to Maricopa County, where he grew up.

He served as the Army National Guard aviation training officer and as the Arizona National Guard Command chief warrant officer.

He said there is an opportunity to make the office better and more transparent. He believes the office needs enhanced collaboration with other counties and better morale within the office.