

Speaker Biographies



Matt Ryan is currently serving his seventh term as Coconino County's Supervisor and is current Chair of the Board of Supervisors. He has chaired the Board six times in prior terms. His district includes the City of Williams, portions of the City of Flagstaff, Northern Arizona University, part of the City of Sedona, as well as several unincorporated areas of southwestern Coconino County.

Matt was born in Pennsylvania, fifth of ten children. Mr. Ryan moved to Flagstaff in 1982. He served in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Ryan received a Bachelor of Science and Secondary Teaching Certification from Northern Arizona University. He previously worked for a biotechnology corporation, with Flagstaff Arboretum in an educational capacity, and as free-lance writer. He also started a small business making recreation trail maps.

Matt is currently chair of the Rural Transportation Advisory Council (RTAC). In current leadership roles Matt serves as chair of the medium county caucus of the County Supervisor's Association (CSA) and Northern Arizona Council of Government's (NACOG) Transportation Advisory Committee. He has served in many other leadership roles and was involved in the creation or development of the Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA) and the creation of the Flagstaff Metropolitan Planning Organization, now MetroPlan. He also served as President of CSA, chair of NACOG's Executive Community, and chair of MetroPlan. Matt is a longtime dedicated advocate to bring the necessary funding for our transportation infrastructure. In coordination with the City of Flagstaff, Coconino County and the City implemented propositions 403 and 406 to generate local revenue for infrastructure improvements and maintenance. Throughout his time in office, he has collaboratively worked to build the social and political will to meet Arizona's infrastructure needs in the 21st century and to expand transportation systems.



Steve Stratton was appointed to the State Transportation Board in 2015 by Governor Ducey and is currently the Chairman of the Board.

Stratton has been engaged in transportation issues and with the State Transportation Board through long service in public works and city management. Born and raised in Globe, he served as that city's public works director and city manager. He then was public works director and acting manager for Gila County. Now retired from public service, Stratton works for S&S Consulting, a project management firm.

"I am extremely appreciative of the appointment," Stratton said. "I am concerned about the transportation needs of the state as a whole and the available funding associated with meeting those needs."



Gary Knight was appointed to the State Transportation Board in 2018 by Governor Ducey.

Mr. Knight is a Yuma native and after spending six years in the Navy returned to the private sector owning his own business, a local boat dealership. Mr. Knight sold the business, after 35 years and retired in 2009.

In 2014, Mr. Knight took office on Yuma City Council and was then re-elected in 2018 to a second term and served three years as Deputy Mayor. As a Councilmember, Mr. Knight serves on the following boards and committees all of which are directly related to transportation:

- Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) Executive Board and was chairman in 2017; Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC); Greater Yuma Port Authority (GYPA) Board of Directors; Yuma County Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee Yuma County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee

"I am extremely honored to have been appointed to the Transportation Board. Transportation infrastructure is vital to economic development in the State and is of particular importance in the rural less populated Counties. I have the honor of working with the rest of the Transportation Board Members and ADOT to improve transportation infrastructure throughout District 6 and the State."

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Kelly Anderson was appointed to the State Transportation Board by Governor Jan Brewer for a six-year term in 2010. Mr. Anderson represented District 4, which covers Pinal, Gila and Graham Counties. Kelly also served on the Sun Corridor MPO Executive Board from 2013 – 2015.

Prior to his service on the State Transportation Board, Mr. Anderson graduated from the University of Arizona College of Agriculture with a major in Agronomy and a minor in Business. Mr. Anderson is a lifelong resident of the city of Maricopa and served on the committee to incorporate into a city prior to serving as the mayor from 2004–2008.

Since retiring from elected life, Mr. Anderson is now enjoying being back on the family farm, which was established in 1949.



Sam Elters has been involved in Transportation in Arizona for 35 years; Sam is a Civil Engineer (Northern AZ University Graduate) who has served at the state & local levels and in both the public and private sectors; He has served in multiple roles and capacities including State Engineer for the Arizona Department of Transportation, Chief Engineer for the Transportation Corridor Agencies (Toll Roads) in Orange County, CA and Senior Vice President for Transportation for a private consulting firm.

Sam was appointed to the State Transportation Board by Governor Ducey & served from 2018 to 2020 representing District 1 (Maricopa County). Sam is currently serving as the County Manager/ County Engineer for Mohave County.



Erich Zimmermann is Deputy Executive Director and Transportation Director at the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). Erich is responsible for NARC's transportation portfolio, which includes lobbying for regional priorities on Capitol Hill and keeping members informed and engaged.

Erich works with members to refine policy priorities and recommendations for the federal surface transportation authorization, amplifies these messages to Congress and the Administration, and guides response to federal rulemaking. Erich has a B.A. in Political Communication from The George Washington University and a M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana.



Karla Petty is the Federal Highway Administration's Arizona Division Administrator. In this capacity, she leads an office of professionals that deliver the Federal-aid Highway Program and discretionary grant highway projects in Arizona. She and her staff provide program & technical assistance, oversight and guidance to Arizona Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and other transportation partners. Through financial and technical assistance, the Arizona Division strives to improve highway safety, mobility, and livability while encouraging innovation. She serves as the Co-Chair for the Arizona Council for Transportation Innovation (ACTI).

Karla has over thirty years of experience in the highway transportation industry and has worked in seven states. She supports and encourages collaboration and partnerships to advance transportation. Karla was recognized with an FHWA Women Leader in Transportation Award in 2020.

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Tim Dunn was elected in 2018 to the AZ House of Representatives. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Land Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee and is a member of the Natural Resources, Energy & Water and Ways and Means Committees. His chairmanship has helped him protect the land, water, and agricultural interests of District 13 and rural Arizona.

Tim is a lifelong resident of Yuma. He graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.S. in Agriculture and is currently working on a Masters of Legal Studies: Law and Economics Concentration. He is married to his wife Eileen Dunn, has two sons, Kirk and Timothy Ty Dunn, daughter-in-law Sierra and granddaughter Coralee.

A successful businessman, Tim continues to create jobs throughout LD13. Together with his wife, they own Dunn Farms, Dunn Grain Co., Upstream Development Co., and several Sport Clips Haircut franchise stores in Yuma, Buckeye, and Goodyear.

Tim is also an active founding board member of Champion Christian Church in Yuma where he enjoys helping the church in building community outreach opportunities. In his free time, Tim enjoys the outdoors, off-roading, exploring the backroads of Arizona, fishing, hunting, and competitive barbecuing.



Tyler Pace is a Republican member of the Arizona State Senate, representing District 25. Pace was elected to the office on November 6, 2018.

He is a native 5th Generation Arizonan, born and raised in Mesa. From an early age, his father cultivated in him the importance of hard physical work and the value of teamwork in accomplishing objectives.

He considers himself a “product” of Mesa Public Schools’ outstanding teachers, who instilled in him a deep appreciation for lifelong learning. He went on to study at Arizona State University.

After obtaining his BA from ASU, Tyler began his career as an entrepreneur, starting, acquiring and merging several companies. He currently owns and operates several businesses in Mesa and employs more than 30 individuals. He says he finds no greater satisfaction than that of creating sustainable jobs that his employees can be proud of. He believes in fueling the entrepreneurial spirit and intends to be a job creator his entire life.

Tyler is married to his beautiful wife Jordann, whom he met in Student Council at Mt. View High School in Mesa. Together they are experiencing the joys and responsibilities of raising their three young children.

In 2018, Tyler ran for the Arizona State Senate with the intention to 1) improve educational opportunity for all students, 2) focus on economic growth and quality job creation and 3) return the rights and powers of healthcare to the patient. He is a champion of individual freedoms and believes the role of an elected official is to be steady, thoughtful and most of all without prejudice. He was elected to represent Legislative District 25 and was sworn in on January 14, 2019—his birthday.



Arizona State Senator Victoria Steele is a Democrat representing Tucson, Arizona’s 9th District. As Seneca-Mingo (Indigenous), she is a powerful advocate for addressing climate change and ending violence against women and children. As a member of the Indigenous People’s Caucus, she introduced legislation that led to the creation of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force.

Senator Steele is a champion for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. She is dedicated to protecting the environment and helping victims of sexual assault, incest, child abuse, and domestic violence.

She has a master’s degree in Counseling/Psychology and a 25-year career as a television and radio newscaster.

Senator Steele is a Co-Whip on the Senate Democratic Leadership Team. She serves on the Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee, as well as the Transportation and the Senate Ethics Committees.

On a more personal note, Victoria loves jazz, and hiking in the mountains of Southern Arizona.

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Dallas Hammit currently serves as state engineer and deputy director for transportation. As leader of the Infrastructure Delivery and Operations Division (IDO), Transportation Systems Management and Operations Division (TSMO), and the Multimodal Transportation Division (MPD), he oversees development and delivery of the ADOT construction program, including environmental studies, engineering design, land acquisition and construction. He also supports the maintenance and operation of more than 6,000 miles of interstate and state highways in Arizona.

Dallas joined ADOT in June 1999 as senior resident engineer in the Yuma District. He later served both the Yuma and Prescott Districts as district engineer. In 2009, Dallas became deputy state engineer for operations, and in 2012, he became senior deputy for development. In 2014, Dallas was appointed State Engineer.



Kevin Adam works for the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC), a coalition of all the rural regional, county and municipal governments in Arizona focused on transportation infrastructure development. He was previously the Legislative Director for the League of Arizona Cities & Towns for five legislative sessions after working in the City Manager's Office of the City of Mesa on legislative and inter-governmental affairs.

Prior to his local government experience, he was on U.S. Senator John McCain's staff for nine years working on a variety of issues including state & local government, public lands, military installations and veterans. He earned Bachelor of Political Science and Master of Public Administration degrees from Arizona State University. Prior to attending ASU, he served on active duty in the U.S. Army obtaining the rank of Sergeant.



Frank Carroll was born and raised in Chicago. His working-class career began as a service mechanic for a forklift and construction equipment dealer in Chicago. Electronics and computer technologies were making much-needed inroads to internal combustion engines and transportation vehicles. Frank hired on with a vehicle test equipment manufacturer advancing with the proliferation of computer control technologies.

As a certified subject matter expert, he trained service technicians in the subjects of vehicle computer management systems, emission systems and their environmental impact, vehicle safety systems, electric vehicle technology, and late model vehicle diagnosis and testing. After stepping away from his training career, Frank spent the most recent years in the tourism industry while getting to know the western US interacting with locals and visitors.



Honoring Representative Frank Pratt August 27, 1942 — September 21, 2021

State Representative Frank Pratt served Legislative District 8, covering Casa Grande, Eloy, Coolidge, Florence, Superior, and southern Gila County. Pratt served in the Legislature since 2009, first in the House, then in the Senate before returning to the House at the beginning of the year. We deeply appreciate Representative Pratt's support of rural Arizona and his contributions to our region will not be forgotten.