



Maricopa County

Bill Gates, District 3
Board of Supervisors

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A message from Supervisor Bill Gates:

I am honored to share that I have been elected to serve as the 2018 Vice Chair for the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. As we begin 2018, I would like to reflect on my first year in office, share the issues that my office addressed, provide you with the highlights of the district 3 office's community engagement, and provide you with my 2018 priorities.

In 2017, a number of issues arose that required collaboration with the community, other government agencies, and local businesses. I appreciate the opportunity to engage with the community on even the most difficult of issues. I value most the relationships and open lines of communication that arise out of this communication.

I hope you enjoy the short recap of my first year in office. I look forward to working with you in 2018.

Supervisor Bill Gates



2018 Priorities

1. Public safety for Maricopa County residents
2. EPCOR Water standpipe completion
3. Maintain a low property tax burden on our residents
4. Ensure a successful election plan and completion of both the Congressional District 8 Special Election and 2018 Statewide Elections
5. Review of the 1999 Daisy Mountain Area Plan
6. Work with the Arizona Department of Real Estate to eliminate illegal lot splits
7. Identify efficiencies and improve service to the community through technology
8. Continue to work with Arizona State Land Department to facilitate the completion of the Maricopa Trail
9. Ensure a balanced and responsible budget by working with other county elected officials and county departments

Year in Review Events and Issues

Desert Hills / New River Water:

In 2017, the most challenging and concerning issue was access to affordable and reliable water for the Desert Hills and New River community. In this unincorporated area, it is estimated that over 1500 homes receive their water from a hauled water source. To provide this water, haulers used city of Phoenix water hydrants.

Water haulers bought the majority of the hauled water from the city of Phoenix. The city of Phoenix had warned the water haulers that their use permits were only temporary and they would need to find other sources of water. This past June, Phoenix set the water shut off date to the haulers as December 31, 2017. There was a very valid concern that if the community was unable to find another reliable and affordable water source, prices would increase to the point of being unaffordable, leaving many in a dire position.

We are grateful to several partners who agreed to find a solution. First, we thank EPCOR USA, a private water company that services the Anthem community who agreed to install a standpipe in Anthem for the water haulers to utilize to access clean affordable water. Second, we thank the Anthem Community Council for leasing the needed land. Third, we thank the Arizona Corporation Commission for approving the EPCOR service area expansion.

As a result of the efforts of these partners, the city of Phoenix has agreed to extend the current hauling permits to the end of April to allow for the standpipe construction.

I want to specifically thank EPCOR USA for stepping in to provide a solution and life necessity for our community as they had no obligation to do so.

Smart Growth and Development:

The continued improvement in the Arizona economy and housing market brings both blessings and challenges. Developers move further from the center of Maricopa County to find parcels of land large enough to develop. Areas like New River and Desert Hills become more attractive as they are surrounded by beauty and offer larger parcels of vacant land.

Illegal lot splits and “wildcat developments” are of particular concern with regard to water, infrastructure, and maintaining the rural feel of the community. As a result of recent situations, our office has worked closely with the Arizona Department of Real Estate as they regulate illegal lot splits. Working together in 2018, we hope to proactively address illegal lot splits and development.

We all understand that the county population will continue to grow, but it should be in a legal and responsible way that protects current residents and communities.



Elections/Reprecincting:

One of the many responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors is to ensure that Maricopa County voters are able to cast their vote for county elections with ease and the knowledge that there is integrity in our election system. As Maricopa County will run state and federal elections in 2018, know that my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and I are working with County Recorder Fontes on the upcoming election plans, responsible voting technology improvements, and ensuring that the community's right to vote is protected.

This past year, County Recorder Fontes began a reprecincting effort. I appreciate the numerous suggestions, concerns, and questions we received regarding the process. My goal is to ensure that you have a voice. As a result of the community's comments, I opted to make minimal changes to the current District 3 precinct lines by adding a new precinct, Tramonto, to relieve the pressure of having nearly 10,000 voters in one precinct. The new precinct lines went into effect on January 1, 2018. I look forward to reviewing precinct lines again in their entirety after we have received the results of the 2020 Census. As Maricopa County is the fastest growing county in the nation, it would be best to wait and make any additional changes to precinct lines until we have the most current population data.

Smart and Connected Council:

One of my priorities as a County Supervisor is to identify cost effective ways to utilize technology to increase our efficiencies as a government and better communicate with residents and businesses. As such, I am pleased to sit on the Smart and Connected Council. The Council is comprised of corporate partners such as Cisco, Uber, and Avnet, educational institutions including ASU and UofA, as well as public sector officials from state and local governments. The Council's goal is to facilitate conversations between the private tech sector and state and local government to create opportunities to collaborate on initiatives that lead to smart and efficient government.

The award of the six million dollar Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) Program funds, a Federal Highway Administration grant, is an example of the benefit of the Smart and Connected Council and its focus on collaborating as a region. The grant was submitted by Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Valley Metro, and the Cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe, Peoria, Glendale, Mesa, and Chandler. The grant application submission included letters of support from multiple local government entities, ASU, Cisco, and Uber, establishing our desire to work together as a region to help reduce congestion and improve the safety of our transportation system. The goal is to utilize the existing transportation network and realize a significant improvement through collaboration and proactive integration of existing infrastructure along major corridors by managing the corridor as a multimodal system to make operational decisions for the benefit of the corridor as a whole.

Maricopa County Regional Parks and Trail System and Arizona State Land:

The Maricopa County Regional Parks and Trail System is a wonderful asset for our community and visitors alike. In November, I started my “Trek the Trail” campaign and I am committed to hiking the entire trail during my first term of office. In the past three months, I have completed 33 of the 315-mile trail. During my first term, I will be hosting various hiking events throughout the county. I hope you are able to join me for a hike.

While the entire 315-mile Maricopa Trail is near completion, there are several areas along the trail that require access from the Arizona State Land Department. Upon taking office, the New River/Desert Hills community made it clear that one of the community priorities was the inclusion of Daisy Mountain into the Maricopa County Parks System. I will continue to meet with State Land to help facilitate the completion of the Maricopa Trail and continue to encourage the transfer of land on Daisy Mountain and the surrounding foothills to the County Parks System. We have proposed swapping other county properties that would be a better fit for more dense development and continue to wait for further information from State Land.



Anthem Community Transportation Test Bed:

MCDOT is on the forefront of utilizing technology to develop smart roadways. The most high tech stretch of roadway in the county can be found right in the District 3 community of Anthem. The Anthem Test Bed is a group of intersections and roads that are equipped with connected vehicle technology that is the envy of many other counties and cities around the country. In fact, the states of New York, Florida, and Virginia either have or are looking to adopt the technology. We are even receiving international acclaim as the Discovery Channel Canada visited last fall and completed a segment on our smart roadway. While only a pilot program, we look forward to implementing the technology in other parts of the county in the future.



Thank you and I look forward to 2018.

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