



Adelita S. Grijalva, *Chair*, District 5

Pima County Board Chair and District 5 Supervisor Adelita S. Grijalva **Term in Review**

As we come to the end of 2024 and our first term in office, I wanted to thank this amazing D5 community for your faith and support. Since joining the Pima County Board of Supervisors in January 2021, we worked with community members to create and implement the Somos D5 Strategic Plan, which guided our work for the last 4 years. It has been incredibly rewarding to be able to recognize the impact of our plan, alongside our community, my colleagues on the board, and County staff who are committed to protecting and enhancing our community's beautiful environment, unique and spectacular cultural heritage, and to finding ways to support our community and its needs.

From preserving and protecting open space, developing environmental protections, standing against pollution and encroachment, elevating Indigenous voices and partnerships, developing affordable housing, dedicating millions to the creation of quality early childhood education, to championing protections and policies that provide our community with programs to improve mental health, broaden access to healthcare, and expanded services- the past four years have been a demonstration of the great work government can do through collaboration, perseverance, and ganas. We are looking forward to our continued partnership.

Mil gracias,

Adelita S. Grijalva

Chair Grijalva has served on the Pima County Board of Supervisors for four years as the first Latina elected to the District 5 Office and to serve as Chair of the Board. Having served in leadership roles for all four years of her first term, as Supervisor, Vice Chair, and Chair, she has been a strong advocate for the needs of Pima County and has championed working with coalitions to address the biggest issues facing our community, including housing people can afford, public education, environmental quality and climate resiliency, and healthy and safe communities.

Under her leadership and during her time on the Board, some of the Board of Supervisors' most celebrated accomplishments include:

- The creation and regular presentation of the Pima County Land Acknowledgement Statement, acknowledging the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and including their voices in meetings and during policy decisions
- Strengthening employee benefits, workplace conditions, and County policies and practices that will improve employee experiences, including through increasing Paid Parental Leave for County employees from 6 weeks to 12 weeks, the approval of cost-of-living adjustments for County employees in relation to their salary classifications, and new Human Resources policies governing improved time off accrual rates for annual leave and sick leave, including frontloading five (5) days of annual leave for new hires and permitting employees to use sick leave as accrued, and allowing County employees to run for elected offices without needing a leave of absence
- Overseeing the implementation of a County-wide Classification and Compensation Study, reviewing each individual position and salary grade to ensure all County employees receive accurate compensation and classified correctly for their job descriptions, as well as approving additional appeals and classifications determined by Human Resources
- Overseeing the updates needed for the 2025 Pima Prospers Plan, a ten (10) year plan that guides Pima County's policies, services, economic growth, land use, infrastructure management, and other programs, and advocating for additions and amendments to strengthen the County's commitment to adapting to climate change, community support systems, sustainable and sensitive development, and the protection of our natural environment
- Increasing awareness and policy around extreme heat in Pima County, including through a resolution to adopt Heat Awareness Week, establishing policies and practices for extreme heat protections and workplace safety requirements for County departments and County contractors against extreme heat, including administrative procedures and a 3-year Strategic Heat Plan, and the first-ever Heat Ordinance by an Arizona county to ensure the health and safety of all Pima County contractors and their employees
- Strengthening and expanding Pima County's commitments to address the risks of climate change and adoption of a climate action plan, including through department policies against vehicle idling, lights and utilities conservation, etc.
- Continued opposition against invasive and damaging policies, practices, and projects that negatively impact our desert environment and residents, including resolutions against the

proposed Copper World Project, the Mining Needs Act and additional legislation supporting mining in our region, and the construction of Interstate 11 through Avra Valley

- Regular inclusion in the Pima County Budget for \$2 million for the purchase of open space to protect and enhance natural environments and sensitive areas, reducing the risk of development and encroachment for wildlife and native habitats, resulting in over 7,700 acres being purchased and protected
- Emphasizing the need for water conservation and protection throughout the region, including through a resolution for the protection of water resources, identifying and implementing initiatives needed to achieve sustainable aquifer yield, maintaining water quality, and advocating for policies requiring environmental impact reports and water usage reports for new businesses
- Advocacy for the Santa Cruz River, including through a Board proclamation recognizing Santa Cruz River Heritage Day and a signed Memorandum of Understanding with Santa Cruz County, the City of Tucson, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Santa Cruz River Wildlife Partnership
- The establishment of an annual Juneteenth floating holiday for County employees, in accordance with the federal recognition of the holiday
- The establishment of the Pima County Regional Affordable Housing Commission, which oversees and makes recommendations for affordable housing project proposals and applications in Pima County
- Regular inclusion in the Pima County Budget for \$5 million for the development, purchase, and construction of affordable housing, resulting in the approval of over \$9.3 million being utilized for the development and preservation of over 1,000 affordable housing units
- The establishment of the Regional Prosperity Task Force to address poverty, improve opportunity, and create community wealth in Pima County, including through the Prosperity Initiative, which seeks to improve standards of living for County residents through education, financial gains, access to resources, and living conditions
- Preventing and reducing the risk of evictions, homelessness, and housing difficulty for thousands of Pima County residents through the Emergency Eviction Legal Services (EELS) Program and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, offering legal assistance and identifying and funding short-term housing solutions for individuals and families facing evictions
- Providing quality early childhood education programming to a wider population of Pima County children from low-income families with the allocation of \$10 million each year for the Pima Early Education Program Scholarships (PEEPS), and establishing PEEPS classrooms in schools and centers throughout the community
- Acknowledging the importance of County-wide broadband high-speed internet access available to all residents, and the necessity of this utility for our community, and overseeing the creation and operation of the Pima County Office of Digital Inclusion, the distribution of free Wi-Fi routers to individuals and families, the implementation of a County-provided network in certain areas of the community, and the anticipated

development of the Middle Mile project, aiming to build a 134-mile fiberoptic ring around Pima County to enhance high-speed internet access for rural and underserved communities

- The Authorization of vote centers instead of polling places for elections, removing polling precincts and allowing all Pima County residents to vote at any vote center, no matter where they live, in all elections, including primaries, general elections, and special elections
- Overseeing the Pima County Jail's Blue Ribbon Commission seeking to address conditions in the jail for detainees and employees alike, including through the review of a charter for a new commission and receiving recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission for next steps
- Demonstrated commitment to the health and safety of Pima County residents, including through a resolution standing against the use, sale, and easy access of firearms, a proposed ordinance to raise the legal age of purchase of tobacco and vaping products from 18 years to 21 years, a resolution against the 1864 near-total abortion ban in Arizona, and a resolution joining in support of the "Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act"
- Approval thousands of dollars received by Pima County from the One Arizona Opioid Mitigation Settlement Funds to be used in targeted campaigns and programs to reduce the continuing fentanyl and opioids emergency, including the purchase of Narcan, used to treat overdoses, and other health and community safety efforts
- Overseeing the expenditure and operation of a massive community effort to provide humanitarian aid and resources to asylum seekers at the Casa Alitas Welcome Center, preventing street releases in Pima County even during massive spikes in arrivals at the border, and keeping the County and asylum seekers safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic