



SOMOS D5 STRATEGIC PLAN

2024



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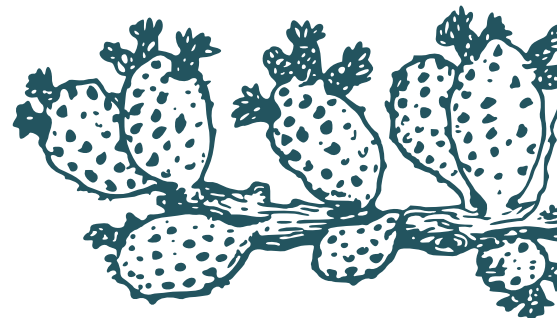
BACKGROUND

The District Five Somos Distrito 5/ We are District 5 Strategic Plan was formulated, with over fifty community leaders' assistance, over the course of 2021. These individuals brought expertise spanning labor, housing, environment, education, community organizing, and business. The Somos D5 Strategic Plan is a living document and our staff has been working to implement and to revise parts of it as goals are accomplished and roadblocks have arisen.

District Five has accomplished a considerable number of the objectives in the plan thanks to community support and the people of Pima County, but many remain works in progress, and several we propose for revision.

In 2023, District Five gathered many vital community allies to produce a revised and updated document to guide the work into the coming months and years. It will remain a living document, subject to changes needed to reflect policy successes and changing circumstances.

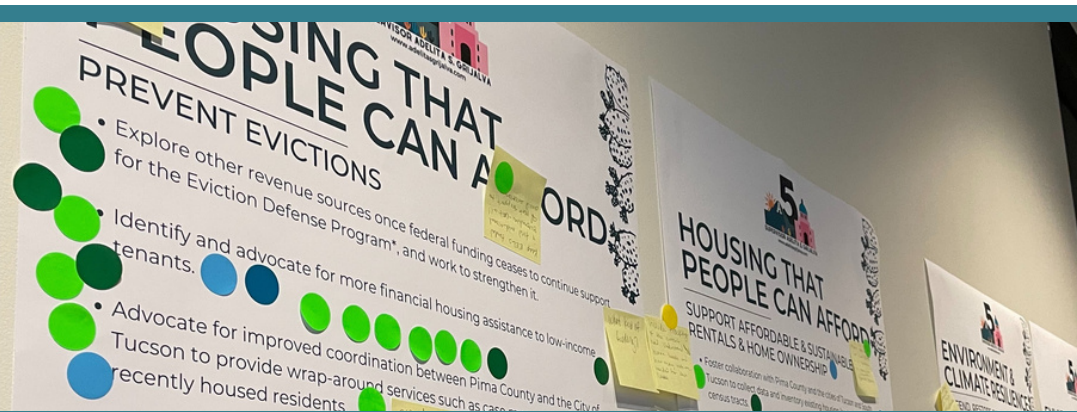
Our values and mission remain the same, and they reflect the legacies of the remarkable District Five Supervisors of the past - David Yetman, Raúl Grijalva, Richard Elías and Betty Villegas.



SPECIAL THANKS

The District 5 Strategic Planning Committee

Education	Environment & Climate resilience	Healthy & Safe	Housing People Can Afford
Steve Holmes	Vanessa Gallego	Margo Cowan	Betty Villegas
Shawna Rodriguez	Carolyn Campbell	Trish Muir	Sharayah Jimenez
Dan Eckstrom	Christina McVie	Cecilia Valdez	Meghan Heddings
Eva Carrillo Dong	Ivy Schwartz	Molly McKasson Morgan	Sarah Meggison
	Meg Weesner	Dr. Cheree Meeks	Imelda Robles
	Roger Pfueffer	Elizabeth Soltero	Magdalena Verdugo



MISSION & VISION

We are District 5 - a comunidad that strives to provide enduring opportunities to lead diverse, safe, and productive lives through equitable access to education, housing, and a healthy environment.

We will reach our shared vision of a healthy, thriving community by honoring and preserving our history and environment and maintaining a vision of hope for future generations. We will collaborate with neighborhoods and essential partners to create systemic change, and advance shared policy goals. Somos District 5.

DRIVING VALUES

The District 5 Strategic Plan has been crafted with a pro-equity lens aimed to defend, work with, and empower the D5 community, especially its most underserved residents. Our priorities are education, environment and climate resilience, healthy and safe communities, and housing that people can afford. We have crafted the plan with community and will continue to strive for transparency and collaboration with community members.

Integral to District 5's Strategic Plan, while not always specifically stated, is the recognition that historical and ongoing systemic discrimination disproportionately impacts working and poor families, women, children, the elderly, black, indigenous, people of color, immigrants and refugees, undocumented and mixed status families, people without homes, the LGBTQIA+ community, the differently abled, and other communities.

These acknowledgements have guided our document and the priorities contained within.



PRIORITIES

EDUCATION

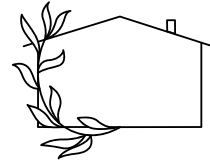
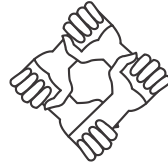
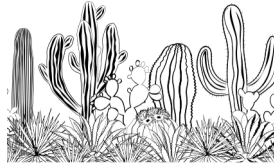
ENVIRONMENT &
CLIMATE RESILIENCE

HEALTHY & SAFE
COMMUNITIES

HOUSING THAT
PEOPLE CAN AFFORD



PRIORITIES



Education	Environment & Climate resilience	Healthy & Safe Communities	Housing People Can Afford
Cultivate Equitable Access to Educational Opportunities	Expand Access to Clean Air & Water	Advocate for Equity and Access	Support Affordable & Sustainable Rentals & Home Ownership
Defend & Enhance Public Schools	Defend, Restore, Expand, & Connect Public Lands	Defend Workers' Rights	Prevent Evictions
Produce Engaging & Helpful Information about District Five	Enhance the Urban Environment at the Neighborhood Level	Address Physical and Mental Health Disparities	Promote Affordable Utilities & Internet Access
Enhance Workforce & Educational Partnerships		Support Safe Homes & Relationships	

EDUCATION

CULTIVATE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Continue to allocate appropriate funding to expand preschool into public schools and monitor PEEPs* (Pima Early Education Program Scholarships) Program goals and objectives.
- Partner with school districts, non-profits, and Pima County departments to increase outreach to resource-based professional advancement.
- Promote literacy, music, and arts through sponsored initiatives and events such as the annual D5 Youth Art Contest, Love of Reading, and targeted High School Literacy Project.
- Collaborate with school districts and community partners to showcase student talent in arts and performance, spanning from pre-K to high school.
- Support adult learners and programs that reintroduce older students to education opportunities.
- Foster partnerships to provide new opportunities for youth who have interacted with the juvenile justice system.



EDUCATION

DEFEND & ENHANCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Coordinate with Pima County, PAG (Pima Association of Governments)/ RTA (Regional Transportation Authority), the City of Tucson, and school districts to advocate for funding and support for safe and accessible routes for all modes of transportation, e.g. biking, ride-sharing, public transportation, and walking.
- Collaborate with schools and community partners to expand and fund quality before-and-after school programs, improving access.



PRODUCE ENGAGING & HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT DISTRICT FIVE

- Identify and share information regarding revenue sources to sustain and expand programs that support D5 residents.
- Coordinate with Arizona Legislators and other municipalities to co-sponsor resolutions in order to amplify regional focus and impact.
- Collaborate with nonprofits, local boards, government agencies, and schools to offer information and services to the community.
- Create a Youth Ambassador/Advisory Committee to engage students in community events and encourage political involvement with school boards, neighborhood associations, and state and local politics.



EDUCATION

EXPAND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- Define and enhance youth employment and internship opportunities through collaboration with local businesses, CTE (Career Technical Education), JTED (Joint Technical Education District), Adult Education, and other jurisdictions to develop skills and help create long-term careers.
- Assess the need for high-demand employable, industry skills, and accessible workforce development in Pima County.
- Ensure that County-funded educational programs provide a pathway to employment, careers, or access to post-secondary education.



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE RESILIENCE



EXPAND ACCESS TO CLEAN AIR & WATER

- Advocate for establishing environmental standards for new developments and businesses in Pima County, including water usage, air and water quality, and roads.
- Continue to advocate for funding and strengthening of Pima County's Sustainable Action Plan (SAPCO) to reduce carbon emissions.
- Support local sustainability projects and initiatives such as planting shade trees along streets and sidewalks.
- Continue to advocate for the City of Tucson to maintain its status of providing free public transit.



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE RESILIENCE



DEFEND, RESTORE, EXPAND, & CONNECT PUBLIC LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- Advocate for and allocate county funds to preserve open spaces, conserve critical habitats, restore natural areas, or other similar projects.
- Strengthen the County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP)*.
- Accelerate the addition of solar energy panels, and enhance water conservation policies and initiatives.
- Secure funding to protect, remediate, and maintain Pima County-protected land and trails.
- Collaborate with the City of Tucson and the Tohono O'odham Nation to preserve and enhance the Tucson-Origins Heritage Area.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE RESILIENCE



ADVOCATE FOR NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT

- Engage the community in preserving environmental, historic, and cultural sites.
- Collaborate with the City of Tucson, other jurisdictions, and school districts to reduce the Urban Heat Island Effect* and preserve water through climate resiliency projects.
- Collaborate with the City of Tucson to seek a “Green Power” agreement with Tucson Electric Power Co.
- Advocate for policies that expand multimodal transportation, green infrastructure, and parks in existing and new developments and discourage solar-panel farms.
- Promote the establishment of a standard requirement for meaningful public meetings and community education when parties apply for rezoning, environmental quality permits, or file development plans.



“I’m really pleased to see several actions directed toward addressing climate change! Reducing carbon emissions and advocating for open space = Good Goals.”

Gayle Hartmann, Board Member, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas



Funding towards Open Space

In both 2022 and 2023, in line with our Strategic Plan, District 5 secured \$2 million for purchasing open space to help ensure that our environment and biodiversity is protected for future generations. This has empowered County departments to work to identify land and reflects the values and needs of our community.



HEALTHY & SAFE COMMUNITIES

ADVOCATE FOR EQUITY AND ACCESS

- Ensure menstrual products are available and accessible at all Pima County facilities to support menstrual equity.
- Foster food justice initiatives by collaborating with community gardens, food pantries, and food banks to share resources.
- Promote, join, and lead events with community organizations serving vulnerable communities in Pima County.
- Fund programs to enhance safety and mobility for all road users, including but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.



HEALTHY & SAFE COMMUNITIES



DEFEND WORKERS' RIGHTS

- Advocate for fair market-based compensation for all Pima County employees, including addressing issues of wage compression* and prevailing wage*.
- Advocate for improvements in the Health Benefits Trust Committee by involving community members in vendor analysis, increasing meeting frequency, and advising administration.
- Promote safe and healthy workplaces.
- Advocate for improving and strengthening safeguards for salaried workers by addressing their workplace concerns.
- Collaborate with administration to implement equitable* hiring and promotion practices and policies.

HEALTHY & SAFE COMMUNITIES

ADDRESS PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

- Partner with the Pima County Health Department to identify the most significant race and ethnicity-based disparities created and exacerbated by systemic discrimination.
- Introduce, maintain, and support policies and procedures that guarantee access to vaccines and preventive screenings.
- Collaborate with Pima County Health Department, school district Superintendents, and education stakeholders to enhance student access and engagement in holistic health services and outdoor physical activity.

SUPPORT SAFE HOMES & RELATIONSHIPS

- Promote the efforts, organizations, and policies that aid those impacted by interpersonal violence and prevent domestic and gun violence.
- Establish, support, and monitor the efforts of the MMIWP* (Missing & Murdered, Indigenous Women/ People) Regional Taskforce dedicated to finding missing Indigenous women and people.
- Increase awareness about the opioid crisis and offer resources for preventing overdose.

Period Poverty Awareness Drive

Since 2021, District 5 has organized an annual Period Poverty Awareness Week Drive. Over the years, D5 has partnered with dozens of nonprofits, elected officials, and local businesses to collect over 80,000 menstrual products to be distributed to those who need them.



HOUSING THAT PEOPLE CAN AFFORD

SUPPORT AFFORDABLE & SUSTAINABLE RENTALS & HOME OWNERSHIP

- Foster collaboration between Pima County, the City of Tucson, and the City of South Tucson to collect data on housing, land, and buildings by census tracts and assess needs based on income levels.
- Identify, track, and advocate for federal, state, and local funds for Pima County, the City of Tucson, and the City of South Tucson to build, improve, and maintain housing people can afford.
- Advocate to eliminate State and Federal policies currently hindering Pima County's ability to develop and maintain affordable housing, such as the state ban on inclusionary zoning*.
- Advocate amending state law to allow counties to use impact fees for affordable housing.
- Promote the reinstatement of the Arizona Housing Commission.
- Ensure that Pima County uses unrestricted funding creatively for affordable housing, including multiplexes, rehabilitation programs, home ownership, and senior housing, with the involvement of Community Land Trusts.
- Promote code changes that reduce the regulatory burden for affordable housing projects and consider tax-reduction incentives.



HOUSING THAT PEOPLE CAN AFFORD

PREVENT EVICTIONS

- Identify additional revenue that will strengthen and maintain the Eviction Defense Program*.
- Identify and advocate for more financial housing assistance for low-income tenants.
- Advocate for better coordination between Pima County and the City of Tucson to offer wrap-around services, such as case managers, to support residents who have recently been housed.
- Collaborate with the cities of Tucson and South Tucson, and non-profits to form a task force addressing fair housing, humanitarian concerns, public safety, eviction prevention services, emergency housing, transitional housing, and wrap-around services.

PROMOTE AFFORDABLE UTILITIES & INTERNET ACCESS

- Collaborate with Pima County and internet service companies to provide broadband internet service to communities underserved by the current grid.
- Support the Connect Pima Program to provide internet to rural areas and other underserved areas.
- Advocate for the expansion of low-income utility assistance, maintenance, and weatherization programs. Explore the possibility that Governor Katie Hobbs can facilitate these efforts.
- Maintain the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department residential service rates at the lowest possible level.

Funding for Affordable Housing

Over 2022 and 2023, District 5 has included \$10 million for the development of affordable housing, in accordance with the District 5 Strategic Plan. Two projects are underway and several more are in the works. Supervisor Grijalva has been instrumental in advocating for these funds and fighting for housing options for Pima County families.



ABOUT ADELITA

Pima County District 5 Supervisor Adelita Grijalva is a native Tucsonan, educated through Tucson Unified School District and the University of Arizona. Supervisor Grijalva is committed to improving the quality of life for our Pima County community. She was elected in November 2020 to the Pima County Board of Supervisors in District 5 to a four-year term and was elected in January 2023 to serve as the Board Chair. She is the first Latina elected to these positions.

Adelita served on the TUSD Governing Board for 20 years and shares with one other person the honor of being the longest-serving TUSD board member. She also served as Director of Pima County Teen Court, a non-profit Juvenile Court diversion program, for more than 25 years before beginning her service as a Pima County Supervisor. That position helped her to understand that collaborations and coalitions that involve non-profit, business and government can bring about the best benefits for the community. Supervisor Grijalva sits on the Pima County Board of Health, the Metropolitan Education Committee, and the Border Counties Coalition. She also serves as a volunteer board member for the YWCA of Southern Arizona.

As Chair in 2023, Adelita has made a strong commitment to working with community to create a coalition to address the biggest issues facing Pima County, including but not limited to: housing people can afford, education, environmental quality and climate resiliency, and healthy and safe communities. Supervisor Grijalva is proud that organizations dedicated to diversity, inclusion, education and equity for all have supported her throughout her career.

Adelita lives in Tucson with her husband Sol and their three children, Adelina, Raúl, and Joaquín.



”
When we work
together,
**good things
happen.**



MEET THE TEAM



Adelita S. Grijalva
Pima County
Supervisor for District 5



Keith Bagwell
Chief of Staff



Elvira Suarez Din
Director of Community
Engagement



Nicholas McCullough
Special Staff Assistant

SOMOS D5 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

“

“Pima County Health Department has been a key partner in advising the Somos D5 Strategic plan and its health initiatives. Together, we will champion a vision of equity and access, foster safe and healthy workplaces, address physical and mental health disparities, and support safe homes and relationships. Our collective dedication paves the way for a more inclusive and healthy community.”

Dr. Theresa Cullen, Director, Pima County Health Department



“I am most honored to actively serve on the Somos D5 Strategic Plan Advisory Committee. Supervisor Adelita Grijalva and her talented D5 team must be complimented for undertaking this most proactive, and first-time ever planning approach in teaming up with community partners from various sectors to create a shared vision on approaching and resolving issues... this key planning document, will greatly empower and strengthen the numerous economically disadvantaged and marginalized communities of color within all of Pima County.”

Dan Eckstrom, Former Pima County District 2 Supervisor & Former Mayor of the City of South Tucson

GLOSSARY

Diversion Program- Diversion programs are alternatives to initial or continued formal processing of youth in the juvenile detention system.

Equity- The notion of being fair and impartial as an individual engages with an organization or system, particularly systems of grievance. “Equity” is often conflated with the term “Equality” (meaning sameness). In fact, true equity implies that an individual may need to experience or receive something different (not equal) in order to maintain fairness and access. For example, a person with a wheelchair may need differential access to an elevator relative to someone else.

Eviction Defense Program- In March of 2021, the Pima County Board of Supervisors approved \$2 million for emergency eviction legal defense attorneys.

Inclusionary Zoning- Inclusionary housing programs are local policies that tap the economic gains from rising real estate values to create affordable housing for lower income families. An inclusionary housing program might require developers to sell or rent 10 to 30 percent of new residential units to lower-income residents.

Neighborhood Reinvestment Program- The Neighborhood Reinvestment Program is a bond-funded program that revitalizes neighborhoods with small community-based capital improvement projects such as sidewalks, park improvements, and street lighting improvements.

MMIWP- MMIWP stands for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People. It’s a movement that advocates for the end of violence against Native women. It also seeks to draw attention to the high rates of disappearances and murders of Native people, particularly women and girls. The MMIW movement exists because a large number of Native women go missing and are murdered each year compared to women from other groups.

PEEPs- In the Spring of 2021, the Pima County Board of Supervisors took bold action to create Pima Early Education Program scholarships (PEEPs). PEEP is designed to assist up to 1,365 children from income eligible families to attend high quality preschool at 187 locations across Pima County. By actively collaborating with existing state and federal programs, the target is to assist all income eligible families who want to send their children to high quality preschool in Pima County.



GLOSSARY

Prevailing Wage- In government contracting, a prevailing wage is defined as the hourly wage, usual benefits and overtime, paid to the majority of workers, laborers, and mechanics within a particular area. Strong prevailing wage laws prevent low-road contractors from undermining higher standards that workers attain through collective bargaining. Prevailing wage laws tend to be particularly important for protecting market pay rate.

Riparian habitats- A riparian zone or riparian area is the interface between land and a river, stream, or wash. Riparian is also the proper nomenclature for one of the terrestrial biomes of the Earth. Plant habitats and communities along the river margins and banks are called riparian vegetation, characterized by water intensive plants. They are very important habitat areas for wildlife, especially in desert regions.

Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan-The award-winning Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP) is Pima County’s plan for balancing the conservation and protection of our cultural and natural resource heritage with our efforts to maintain an economically vigorous and fiscally responsible community. Since 2001, the SDCP has guided where public money is spent to conserve important natural areas, providing the basis for how cultural and historic resources are protected, and serving to help ensure that our lifestyle, heritage, and traditions continues. The SDCP set the stage for later efforts such as the City-County Water Study, and re-investment in the County’s sewage treatment facilities, and created a new standard for public transparency and involvement. The Multi Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) is the part of the SDCP that deals with compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

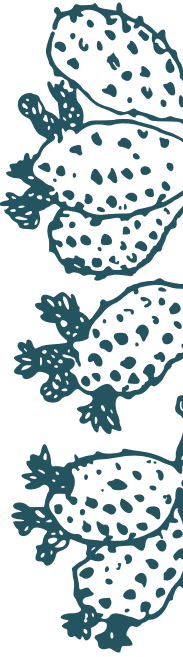
Wage Compression- Pay compression, also known as wage compression or salary compression, occurs when employees with the same skills and experience are paid differently. It is an issue when a legal minimum wage is increased.

Urban Heat Island Effect- Heat islands are urbanized areas that experience higher temperatures than outlying areas. Structures such as buildings, roads, and other infrastructure absorb and re-emit the sun’s heat more than natural landscapes such as forests and water bodies. Urban areas, where these structures are highly concentrated and greenery is limited, become “islands” of higher temperatures relative to outlying areas.



NEXT STEPS

Where do we go from here?



01

Sign up for our newsletter

Visit www.adelitasgrijalva.com to sign up for our newsletter.

02

Action or commitment

Volunteer with us at events, mutual aid efforts, and more!

03

Follow us on social media

Help us share our events and information and let us know what resources we can share!



CONTACT

Supervisor Adelita S. Grijalva
District 5
33 N. Stone Ave. 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ, 85701
520-724-8126

www.adelitasgrijalva.com
district5@pima.gov

