An Introduction to Our Leadership

The City Council is the governing body for Scottsdale. The council consists of the mayor and six council members who are elected to represent the city at large and serve overlapping, four-year terms. These seven citizens oversee city government and set policy, approve programs, appropriate funds, enact laws, select charter officers and appoint residents to serve on advisory bodies. The mayor is the chair of the Scottsdale City Council and presides over its meetings, which are typically held on Tuesdays in the City Hall Kiva Forum located at 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd. in Old Town Scottsdale. The City Council hires six officers to advise them on policy issues and run day-to-day operations. They are collectively known as the charter officers because their positions are spelled out in the City Charter, a voter-approved document which describes the organization and authority of city government in Scottsdale. These positions are the city attorney, city auditor, city clerk, city manager, city treasurer and presiding city judge.

Note: The City Manager is the chief administrator responsible for nearly nine out of 10 employees.
W. J. "Jim" Lane served for four years on the Scottsdale City Council beginning in June 2004 and began his third term as Mayor in January 2017. Mayor Lane currently represents the city as a member of the Flinn Foundation Arizona Bioscience Roadmap Steering Committee. He is the current President of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, a member of the Governor’s Arizona Workforce Committee, member of the Executive Committee of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. He is a member the MAG Regional Council and former President of the MAG Executive Board and Economic Development Committee. Mayor Lane also serves on the Municipal Tax Code Commission, Arizona Game and Fish Appointment Recommendation Board, he is a member of the Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations and an Honorary Member of the Taliesin West Board of Stewards. He came to Scottsdale from New Jersey in 1973 to take a position with KPMG (Peat Marwick), an international CPA firm. He worked as an Arizona CPA for 20 years with five of those years in public accounting as a financial statement auditor. Mayor Lane has owned and operated businesses in construction, mining, computer technology, telecommunications, regional aviation and financial consulting. Mayor Lane is also a former Adjunct professor of Business and Accounting at Scottsdale Community College. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia.

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Suzanne Klapp began her first term on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2009 and began her third term in January 2017. She has more than 40 years of management experience in manufacturing, distribution and retail operations. She began her career with Whirlpool Corp. where she worked for 14 years in a variety of positions in marketing, communications, human resources, production and material control. Later, she owned a custom plastics manufacturing plant in Indiana. She moved to Scottsdale in 1998 and has since owned custom framing retail stores in Scottsdale and Phoenix. She is member of the Valley Metro RPTA board and helped found and continues to advise the Scottsdale Gateway Alliance. She is a graduate of Valley Leadership and is on the Advisory Board of Scottsdale Leadership. She serves as chair of the Council’s Economic Development Subcommittee and is a member of the Council’s Capital Improvement Plan Subcommittee. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Journalism from the University of Evansville and Master of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University.

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Councilmember Virginia Korte began her second term on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2017. She has an extensive background in business and non-profit management as well as community service. In 1981 she joined her family business (Ray Korte Chevrolet) to work with and learn from her father where she served in various roles until becoming general manager and dealer in 1991. After selling the dealership in 1998, Virginia was hired as a biology professor at Scottsdale Community College and became the first Executive Director of their Center for Native & Urban Wildlife, serving until 2002. In 1996, Virginia was named to the Board of Directors of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce, and in 2002, she was hired as President and CEO. Virginia then served as President and CEO of Scottsdale Training and Rehabilitation Services (STARS) from 2008 until 2014. She currently serves as a member of the board for Business United for Scottsdale Schools.

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Guy Phillips began his second term on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2017. Councilman Phillips was raised in Phoenix where he graduated from Camelback High School in 1977. He moved to Scottsdale in 1994. He attended Maricopa Community College and subsequently started the air conditioning contracting business that he still owns and operates. He was a general contractor and homebuilder whose business was one of the first to implement Scottsdale’s Green Building Program. He is a member of the Better Business Bureau, the Arizona Small Business Association, the North Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, the Heritage Foundation, the National Rifle Association, and the Arizona Archaeological Society. Councilman Phillips has created many startup businesses with a patent pending and in his spare time he likes to restore vintage muscle cars. Scottsdale is where Guy Phillips met his wife Cora, and together they raised a family of five children who all attended Scottsdale public schools.

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Kathy Littlefield began her second term on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2019. She has 25 years of financial and management experience. She co-founded (with her husband Bob Littlefield, who served three terms on the Scottsdale City Council from 2002 to 2015) and continues to manage a successful Scottsdale-based computer company, NetXpert Systems, Inc. Her previous professional experience includes working in the Budget Office of the City of Plano, Texas, as an office manager for a local greetings company, and as the finance director for Girls Ranch, a nonprofit organization formerly in Scottsdale. She served as president of her Civitan Club (an organization that helps developmentally disabled and underprivileged children), where she was chosen “Civitan of the Year” for her efforts. Councilwoman Littlefield is a Scottsdale native. She attended the Scottsdale Unified Schools Ingleside Elementary and Arcadia High and graduated with distinction from Arizona State University in 1970 with a bachelor’s degree in business education.

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Linda Milhaven began serving on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2011 and was re-elected to a third term that began in January 2019. She has served in numerous volunteer capacities including Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Scottsdale Cultural Council, Chair of the Board of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Board of the Better Business Bureau. She was a member of Class VIII of Scottsdale Leadership and in 2009 earned their Frank B. Hodges Alumni Achievement Award. As part of her 30 year banking career, she was a community bank president in Scottsdale from 1993 to 2005. Councilwoman Milhaven graduated from Paradise Valley High School. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and a Masters in Business Administration from Columbia University in New York.

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Councilwoman Whitehead began her first term on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2019. She came to Scottsdale in 1996 from San Diego for ‘just six months’, fell in love with everything Arizona and never went back. Councilwoman Whitehead graduated from the University of Florida where she earned a degree in electrical engineering. She is an accomplished businesswoman, currently working in the real estate field. She served 10 years as executive director of the Environmental Fund for Arizona and in that capacity was named Arizona Wildlife Federation’s “Arizona Conservationist of the Year” in 2009. Councilwoman Whitehead is a former Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commissioner, proudly helped lead the monumental effort to pass Proposition 420 in November 2018 and provided funding for the initial 3D Printer Lab at Scottsdale Community College. She and her husband Mike have three grown children and spend a lot of time outdoors.

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Councilwoman Solange Whitehead

Councilwoman Linda Milhaven

Councilman Guy Phillips

Councilwoman Kathy Littlefield

Councilwoman Linda Milhaven
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Highlighted Recognition

Scottsdale achieves What Works Cities Silver Certification. A Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative, the certification rates how well cities are managed by measuring the extent to which city leaders incorporate data and evidence in their decision-making. Scottsdale was recognized for adopting a business mindset to run a well-managed government, embracing transparency, embedding data in decision-making – and several other accomplishments that resulted from those practices. Scottsdale was one of seven cities to achieve 2019 What Works Cities Certification and the smallest city to be certified to-date.

Operation Fix It receives Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation Award. This award recognizes programs that successfully confront an important service delivery dilemma and have a positive impact and benefit to the community.

Tourism and Events wins six advertising awards for Old Town rebranding. The Phoenix Chapter of the American Advertising Federation presented ADDY Awards for the Old Town Rebrand Campaign, including three gold level awards (for magazine print, outdoor board advertising and integrated campaign), one silver award (for magazine print) and one bronze (for outdoor board). The Tourism and Events Department was also awarded the coveted Judge’s Choice Award for the entire campaign.

Scottsdale Employee Awards. At Scottsdale’s annual Employee Awards Program on Dec. 5, 160 employees and one volunteer were honored. The winners were among more than 550 employees nominated in several categories.

Find more recognitions and rankings at ScottsdaleAZ.gov, search “recognition”